

AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK

APPROVED BY THE WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK AND SITUATION BOARD
USDA • ECONOMICS, STATISTICS, AND COOPERATIVES SERVICE • AOR30



REALIZED NET FARM INCOME (1970-1977)

MARCH 1978



March 1978/AO-30

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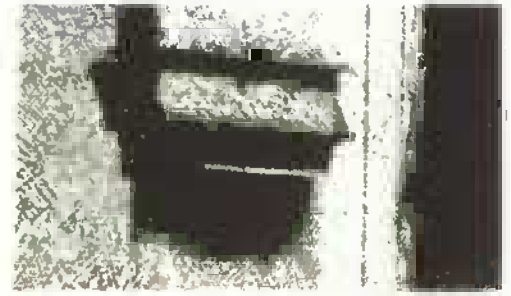
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Contents of this report have been approved by the World Food and Agricultural Outlook and Situation Board and the summary was released February 28, 1978. Materials may be reprinted without permission. Agricultural Outlook is published monthly, except for the January/February combined issue.

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Livestock Returns To Push First Half Cash Receipts Above Year Earlier

Outlook Highlights:

- Realized net farm income in early 1978 may hold close to year-earlier levels following dip in 1977.
- Winter food prices rise, slower increase in prospect by spring. Forecast of 4 to 6 percent rise in 1978 retail food prices still appears likely.
- Export prospects improve for U.S. agricultural products.
- Severe winter weather and coal strike have moderated early 1978 economic activity.
- Feed grain set-aside finalized; reserve program storage payments raised to encourage more participation.
- Livestock prices up sharply, at least partly weather related, but prices are likely to decline in coming months from late February levels.

Some of the above developments, such as severe winter weather, will have rather short-term impacts on the food and fiber sector. Others, such as the final decision on the set-aside program for feed grains, increased storage payments for the grain reserve program, and improved export prospects for U.S. agricultural products, could have longer run influences.

But any evaluation of these recent developments must be made within the overall agricultural setting which has not changed much since last fall, when expected large world crop production became evident.

Modest food price rises are still expected, economic recovery continues—though at a slower pace than last year—and farm income may hold after 1977's dip. The crop side can be characterized by record large output, building stocks, and weak but improving prices. Livestock and products output in the first half of 1978 may be up about 2 percent from a year ago. Producers are expanding output of fed cattle, hogs, broilers, eggs and milk in response to more favorable feed-livestock price relationships.

Farm Income

Preliminary estimates of 1977 farm income are being released for the first time this month. These data are summarized in a following section of this issue.

Looking to 1978, farmers' cash receipts (on a seasonally adjusted annual rate basis) in the first half may be up slightly from year-ago levels and from late last year. Most of this gain will be in the livestock sector where higher prices and larger output of some livestock commodities may push livestock receipts up about \$5 billion over first half 1977.

Crop receipts early this year could trail year-earlier levels, but they may be marginally stronger than last fall. Loan activity early in 1978 continues heavy and grain prices have strengthened from last year's harvest lows helped at least in part by improved farm export prospects. Government payments are likely to continue large during the first part of 1978 with about \$1 billion in wheat, barley, and sorghum payments to be made on 1977 crops.

Production expenses are continuing to rise in 1978, reflecting higher interest charges, increased livestock feeding, and higher prices for many production inputs. After slowing in second half 1977, prices paid by farmers for production inputs in first half 1978 could be up 4 to 5 percent from a year earlier. Slack demand and larger supplies will likely hold down price rises of some inputs purchased by farmers, and prices of some items may even go down. Prices of fertilizer and pesticides may hold close to year-earlier levels, although gasoline and diesel fuel prices continue to rise. Farm machinery sales declined last year and are still trending downward, leaving adequate supplies. However, farm machinery prices may still go up this year.

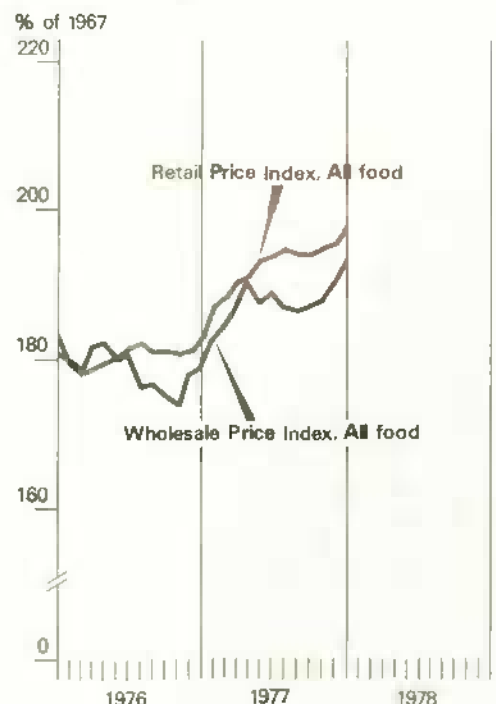
Food Prices

Retail food prices in grocery stores took a sharp jump in January—up a little over 1 percent from December. Largest rises occurred for eggs, poultry, red meats, frozen orange juice, and sugar.

Farm prices accounted for the retail price rise since marketing spreads were down a little from December to January. Cattle and hog prices continued upward well into February and will be reflected in further increases in retail prices. Weekly data indicate that in the first half of February retail prices of beef were up around 2 percent and pork rose about 4 percent from the January average.

Retail food price gains are expected to slow during the spring and summer, barring adverse weather, after this early 1978 bulge. As a result, our forecast of the increase in average food prices for all of 1978 continues in the 4- to 6-percent range.

FOOD PRICES CONTINUE UP IN EARLY 1978



U.S. Agricultural Exports

Prospects for U.S. agricultural exports in 1977/78 have improved, although weather-related problems have slowed shipments recently. Feed grain and cotton export volumes are projected above earlier forecasts. Oilseed prices are somewhat stronger than expected, although, along with grain prices, are still well below year-ago levels.

U.S. agricultural exports, currently expected to total around \$22.5 billion in fiscal 1978, will be hard-pressed to match the \$24 billion of last year. Despite an 8-percent boost in export volume to a record high, lower export prices may reduce overall export values. Depending on 1978 world crop developments and U.S. grower participation in set-aside and grain reserve programs, exports may fall in the \$22 to \$24 billion range in fiscal 1978.

At the same time, U.S. agricultural imports are expected to total around \$13.5 billion in fiscal 1978. Consequently, our agricultural trade surplus may narrow from last year's \$10.6 billion. Although still a major positive factor in the overall trade balance, agriculture's surplus position has shrunk from slightly over \$12 billion annually in 1974-76.

Economic Activity

Economic activity during January was adversely affected by the severe winter weather in the Northeast and Midwest, the coal strike, and lower motor vehicle output and sales. Housing starts plunged a record 29 percent at an adjusted annual rate; retail sales fell an adjusted 3.1 percent—the steepest tumble in more than 13 years; and industrial output was down an adjusted 0.7

percent for the sharpest drop since March 1975.

Despite the sizable declines in these key indicators, employment and unemployment in January were about unchanged from December following strong improvements in recent months.

The wholesale price index in January rose sharply, especially for products at the early stages of processing. This could mean upward pressure on consumer prices in the months ahead.

Real gross national product during the fourth quarter of 1977 increased at an annual rate of 4.0 percent, revised down from 4.2 percent reported earlier, and compared with 5.1 percent in the third quarter. For 1978 as a whole, a growth rate of 4 to 5

KEY STATISTICAL INDICATORS OF THE FOOD AND FIBER SECTOR

	1975	1976			1977 ¹					1978	
	Annual	III	IV	Annual	I	II	III	IV	Annual	I	II
										Forecast	
Prices received by farmers (1967=100)	185	189	177	186	186	189	176	179	183	188	186
Livestock and products (1967=100)	172	175	165	177	172	174	178	177	175	189	184
Crops (1967=100)	201	206	190	197	204	209	175	182	193	188	190
Prices paid by farmers, all items (1967=100)	180	193	191	191	200	204	202	202	202	210	213
Production items (1967=100) ¹	187	200	197	198	207	211	207	206	208	217	220
Farm production (1967=100)	114	—	—	117	—	—	—	—	121	—	—
Livestock and products (1967=100)	101	—	—	106	—	—	—	—	108	—	—
Crops (1967=100)	121	—	—	121	—	—	—	—	129	—	—
Farm income: ²											
Cash receipts (\$ bil.)	88.1	91.5	92.4	94.3	96.7	97.1	90.4	95.9	95.0	—	—
Livestock (\$ bil.)	43.0	45.5	45.4	46.4	46.2	46.8	47.8	48.9	47.4	—	—
Crops (\$ bil.)	45.1	46.0	47.0	47.9	50.5	50.3	42.6	47.0	47.6	—	—
Realized gross farm income (\$ bil.)	96.7	100.9	101.9	103.6	106.5	107.2	100.8	110.0	106.1	—	—
Production expenses (\$ bil.)	75.9	82.3	81.2	81.7	84.5	86.5	83.3	88.5	85.7	—	—
Farmers' realized net income (\$ bil.)	20.8	18.6	20.7	21.9	22.0	20.7	17.5	21.5	20.4	—	—
Farmers' total net income (\$ bil.) ³	24.3	17.6	18.0	20.0	21.5	21.2	17.5	25.0	21.3	—	—
Market basket: ⁴											
Retail cost (\$)	1,876	1,902	1,875	1,895	1,913	1,932	1,948	1,952	1,937	2,010	2,027
Farm value (\$)	784	748	709	748	742	750	754	756	750	790	762
Spread (\$)	1,092	1,154	1,166	1,147	1,171	1,182	1,194	1,196	1,986	1,220	1,265
Farm share (%)	42	39	38	39	39	39	39	39	39	39	38
Retail prices:											
Food (1967=100)	175.4	182.0	181.5	180.8	186.6	192.1	194.8	195.4	192.2	200	202
At home (1967=100)	175.8	180.6	179.3	179.5	184.8	190.3	192.7	192.8	190.2	198	200
Away-from-home (1967=100)	174.3	187.8	190.1	186.1	193.7	199.1	202.8	205.4	200.3	208	212
Per capita food use (1967=100)	102.0	—	—	105.4	—	—	—	—	104.2	—	—
Animal-products (1967=100) ⁵	99.7	104.4	107.0	103.9	101.8	101.5	103.3	105.6	103.6	102.5	102.5
Crop-products (1967=100)	104.8	—	—	107.1	—	—	—	—	104.8	—	—
Agricultural exports (\$ bil.) ⁶	21.9	5.6	5.4	22.8	6.5	6.2	6.3	5.0	24.0	6.1	—
Agricultural imports (\$ bil.) ⁶	9.5	2.8	2.8	10.5	2.9	3.6	3.9	3.1	13.4	3.0	—

¹ Including interest, wages, and taxes. ² Quarterly data are seasonally adjusted at annual rates; 1977 data are preliminary estimates. ³ Includes net changes in farm inventories. ⁴ Quarterly data are given at annual rates. ⁵ Quarterly data exclude fish products. ⁶ Annual and quarterly data are based on Oct.-Sept. fiscal years ending with indicated years; quarters indicated refer to fiscal year quarters not calendar year quarters, i.e. IV 1977 means July-Sept. 1977, III 1977 means April-June 1977, etc.

percent appears likely with some of the loss of growth in the first quarter recovered in the second. With real consumer incomes likely to rise around 4 percent this year, consumer demand for food should remain strong.

Coal Strike

Impacts of the coal strike are being felt throughout the economy, since coal is a major fuel used in producing electricity. Already, electricity reductions of 25 percent to industrial users have been initiated in those areas with most severe coal shortages (particularly in Indiana and Ohio).

Even if the strike is settled (a tentative settlement is pending), it will take around a month to get coal production up to pre-strike levels. With coal stockpiles sharply lower, power cutbacks by utilities could still continue to affect industrial users.

Electricity is a major energy source of the food and fiber system—and over a third of the food and feed processing industry is located in the 12-State region hit hardest by the coal strike. If food processing plants are forced to cut back operations or close, the impact could eventually carry through to reduced supplies and higher prices at retail.

Reserve and Set-Aside Programs

In an attempt to reduce production and bolster prices for 1978 crops, the 10-percent feed grain set-aside program was finalized on February 8. A 20-percent set-aside for wheat was already announced last fall.

At the same time, actions were taken to encourage farmers to participate in the grain reserve program. Storage payments for major grains were increased 5 cents to 25 cents a bushel, provisions of the farm storage facility loan program were expanded, and, beginning March 1, 1977-crop barley, oats, and wheat can be placed directly in the reserve program. A major goal of the reserve program is to isolate from the market around 30 to 35 million metric tons of wheat and feed grains which includes the farmer-held reserve and the International Emergency Food Reserve. Another important objective of the reserve program is to help bolster grain prices.

Livestock Prices

Livestock prices have risen sharply in early 1978, especially for hogs. Barrows and gilts at Omaha were running about \$50 per cwt. in mid-February, up from \$43-\$44 at

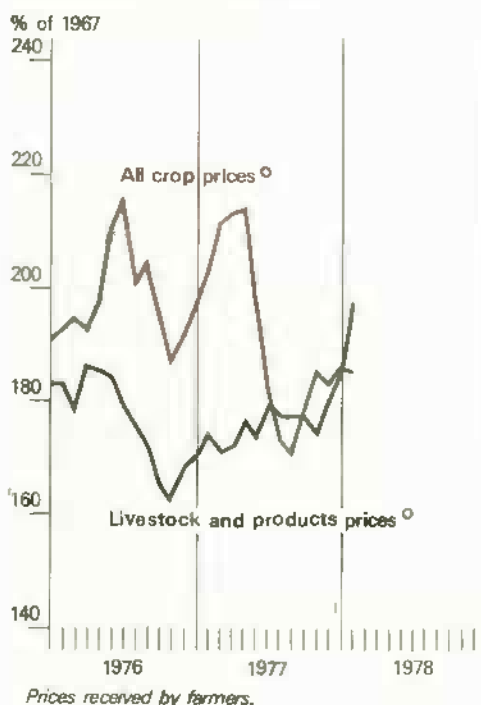
the beginning the year and almost a fifth above a year earlier. However, hog prices have begun to weaken. Much of these gains stemmed from the severe winter weather through much of the country, which caused marketing problems. Fluctuations in marketings have caused hog prices to bounce, although generally at higher levels. At \$45-\$46 per cwt. in late February, cattle prices were up about a fifth from a year earlier. Broiler prices have also risen, primarily reflecting increases in other meat prices, although some disruption of marketings has likely also occurred.

January retail prices were up about 5 percent from a year ago for beef and around 10 percent for pork, as consumer demand for meat continues strong.

As weather improves and marketings become more normal, livestock prices are likely to drop in coming months from their late February levels. With beef production expected to continue below a year ago, cattle prices will probably remain strong during the rest of the year. On the other hand, larger output of pork and broilers points to lower prices in the months ahead.

As was mentioned last month, prices of many crop items have risen seasonally from their harvest lows last fall, although overall farm crop prices in February were still around 7 percent below year-earlier levels.

CROP PRICES STRENGTHEN, FOLLOWED BY LIVESTOCK



Grain prices may show some further modest seasonal strength during the rest of the 1977/78 marketing year, with prices later in the year depending in part on 1978 crop prospects. However, for the whole year, prices of wheat and corn are still likely to average close to loan rates.

As a result, overall farm prices have risen about a tenth from last August's low—fueled first by rising crop prices and more recently by increased livestock prices—and in February were about 3 percent above a year ago. However, farm prices may ease seasonally by spring as lower livestock prices offset a small rise for crop items.

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Farm Income Concepts Defined

Realized gross farm income includes four principal components:

1. *Cash receipts from farm marketings* of farm products represent gross receipts from commercial market sales as well as loans (net of redemptions) made or guaranteed by Commodity Credit Corporation and purchases under price support programs.
2. *Government payments to farmers* are those made directly to farmers in connection with farm programs.
3. *Nonmoney income* includes and imputed rental value of housing provided by farm dwellings and the value of farm products consumed by farm households.
4. *Other farm income* from recreation and machine hire and custom work.

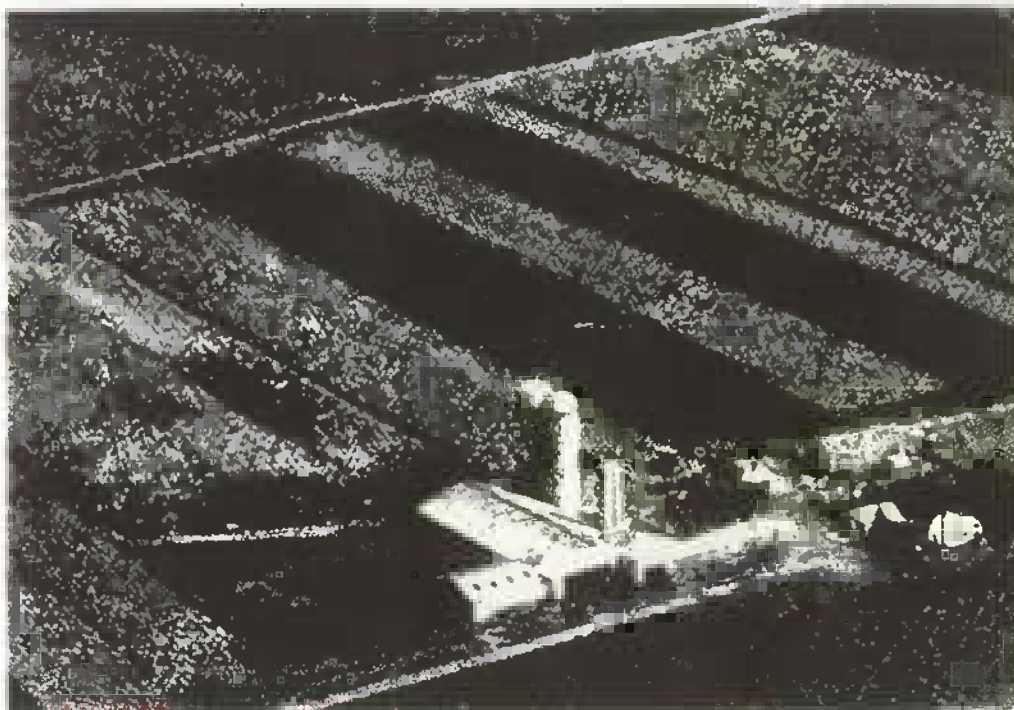
Farm production expenses comprise the aggregate costs incurred in farm production. They include current farm operating expenses for such items as wages paid to hired labor (in cash and in kind) and outlays for repairs of equipment and operation of the farm, as well as purchases for depreciation and other capital consumption, taxes on farm property, and interest on the farm mortgage debt.

Expenditures on new buildings, motor vehicles, and other capital equipment are not included as a production cost. Instead, production expenses include an allowance for annual depreciation and other capital consumption.

Farm operator's realized net income represents what is left from realized gross farm income after deducting farm production expenses. This is substantially the net income realized from sales.

Net change in farm inventories measures the change in physical quantities of livestock and crops on farms, valued at average prices prevailing during the year. For some purposes, particularly for constructing the national income estimates of the U.S. economy which measure the net value of production during the calendar year, it is necessary to take into account changes in farm inventories.

Farm operators' total net income is their realized income plus or minus the value of the net change in inventories. This figure enters the national income estimates of the U.S. Department of Commerce as farm proprietors' income, once adjustments are made for farm corporations.



1977 Farm Income Review

by Steven R. Guebert, National Economics Analysis Division, Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service

Preliminary estimates of calendar year 1977 farm income were completed in early February. Highlights include:

—Cash receipts up \$0.7 billion to a total of \$95.0 billion with a near equal split between crops and livestock;

—\$3.5 billion of crop receipts was associated with Commodity Credit Corporation loans, compared with \$0.8 billion in 1976;

—Direct government payments at \$1.8 billion, were up from \$0.7 billion with most of the increase accounted for by deficiency payments;

—Realized gross income in current prices established a new record of \$106.1 billion, up \$2.5 billion,

—Production expenses which rose \$4 billion to \$85.7 billion were led by higher interest and depreciation charges, but were moderated by lower feed and fertilizer costs,

—Value of farm product inventory changes increased \$0.9 billion, in contrast with a \$1.9 billion decline in 1976;

—Total net farm income (includes inventory change) was \$21.3 billion, up \$1.3 billion from 1976;

—Realized net farm income (excludes adjustment for inventory change) amounted to \$20.4 billion, down \$1.5 billion from 1976.

These estimates account for receipts and expenses associated with food and fiber production on all of the Nation's farms. Though clearly an important source of income to farm people, off-farm income of people engaged in farming is not included as part of these farm income estimates.

Livestock and crop disposition reports available during the spring, plus survey data on production expenditures, will allow more complete national estimates to be available in July. Detailed State estimates are scheduled for publication in late summer.

Underlying the aggregate estimates are significant quarterly changes in income and substantial income differences among various commodity groups. Although crop output was record large in 1977, lower prices held down crop receipts for the year. Grain prices fell sharply in the third quarter driving seasonally adjusted receipts down 15 percent from the first half. But in the final quarter, heavy use of the Government loan program by U.S. farmers and lower grain production estimates for other parts of the world bolstered domestic crop prices.

These stronger prices, coupled with more than a billion dollars in direct Government payments, greatly improved grain producers' incomes in the fourth quarter.

Wheat and feed grain producers experienced sharp reductions in cash receipts from marketings during 1977. Combined receipts for wheat, corn, barley, sorghum, and oats were off nearly \$2 billion, or roughly 11 percent.

While farm prices for these five crops declined about 20 percent, larger crops and heavy use of the CCC loan program at higher loan rates helped to cushion the drop in receipts. During the calendar year, there were net placements of about 550 million bushels each of wheat and corn under the CCC loan program; this accounted for about a quarter of wheat marketings and 13 percent of corn marketings.

In the income accounts, commodities placed under CCC loan are treated as sales and are thus not counted as part of farmers' inventories. If commodities are redeemed and sold for a price greater than the loan rate, additional receipts are added at that time. During 1977, net loan activity accounted for \$3.5 billion of the \$47.6 billion in crop receipts.

Cash receipts from wheat marketings dropped steadily from a peak of \$7.3 billion in 1974 to \$4.9 billion in 1977. However, adjusting cash receipts for inventory change yields a considerably different picture. For example, the inventory adjusted series for

FARM CASH RECEIPTS, SELECTED COMMODITIES¹

Commodity	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
\$ Bil.								
Cattle and calves	13.6	15.0	18.2	22.4	17.8	17.5	19.4	20.1
Hogs	4.5	4.2	5.4	7.6	7.0	7.9	7.4	7.5
Dairy products	6.5	6.8	7.1	8.1	9.4	9.9	11.4	11.8
Eggs	2.1	1.8	1.8	3.0	2.9	2.8	3.2	2.9
Broilers	1.5	1.5	1.6	2.7	2.5	2.9	2.9	3.1
Total livestock and products	29.6	30.6	35.7	45.9	41.4	43.0	46.4	47.4
Corn	3.3	3.6	3.7	7.3	9.9	8.4	9.8	8.8
Soybeans	3.2	3.3	3.9	6.9	9.2	6.4	8.0	8.4
Wheat	2.1	2.0	3.0	6.1	7.3	6.7	5.6	4.9
Cotton lint	1.0	1.3	1.6	2.3	2.3	2.0	3.2	3.6
Sugar, beets and cane .....	.6	.7	.7	1.1	2.0	1.6	1.0	.8
Total crops	21.0	22.3	25.5	41.1	51.1	45.1	47.9	47.6
Total cash marketings	50.5	52.9	61.2	87.1	92.4	88.1	94.3	95.0

¹ Calendar year receipts from marketings; crop receipts include net CCC loans.

wheat goes from \$7.3 billion in 1975 to \$6.3 billion in 1976 and \$4.4 billion in 1977. Feed grain receipts adjusted for inventory changes showed the largest change between 1976 and 1977. For instance, corn drops from \$10.0 billion in 1976 to \$8.3 billion in 1977. On the other hand, soybean producers who received \$400 million more in marketing receipts during 1977, experienced a gain in receipts plus inventory changes of about \$3.7 billion from 1976. Adjusting marketing receipts for changes in inventories provides a more complete picture of the earnings attributable to a given year's output than do receipts alone.

Cotton receipts were up \$400 million from 1976 as a result of strong preharvest prices, the record crop, and heavy loan placements during the final weeks of the year. Reduced supplies and sharply higher prices late in the year increased receipts for fruits and nuts by \$800 million to \$4.3 billion. Lower sugar prices led to a further drop in sugar receipts—less than half the 1974 peak.

On the livestock side, more favorable feed prices and feeding margins meant that more grain was marketed through livestock and brought improved livestock receipts relative to crops. Before 1974, livestock receipts typically exceeded crop receipts, but with

high grain prices in 1974 and more feed grains being exported, crop receipts outpaced those from livestock. As a result, livestock receipts were off sharply in 1974, but have increased each year since.

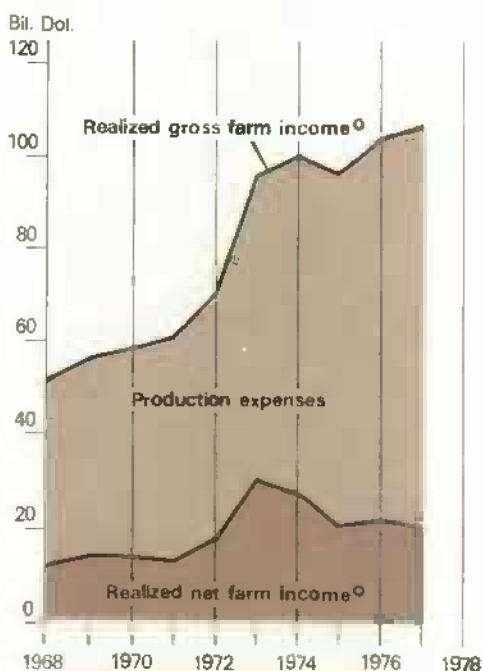
Output of livestock and livestock products was up nearly 3 percent in 1977. While prices received averaged marginally lower for the year, the pattern was of strengthening rather than falling prices as in 1976. Other than egg producers, all major livestock producer groups received larger cash receipts last year.

Other Gross Income Components Rise

During calendar 1977, direct Government payments consisted of about \$1.0 billion in deficiency payments and \$800 million under other farm programs mainly disaster and conservation provisions. Early in the year, rice producers received about \$125 million associated with the 1976 crop. During December, 1977 wheat crop deficiency payments, under the 1977 Farm Act, began flowing to wheat producers and totaled \$740 million. The new Act also established a loan program to support sugar prices. About \$110 million was paid out through sugar processors during December before the loan program became effective.

Realized gross farm income also includes an imputed rental value for farm dwellings, the value for farm products consumed by the farm household, and other farm sources of cash income, such as from recreation,

EXPENSES UP MORE THAN REALIZED GROSS INCOME IN 1977



machine hire, and custom work. The non-money and other farm cash income is estimated to have increased in 1977 by \$700 million to \$9.3 billion.

Interest Charges Lead Expense Rise

Farm production expenses were estimated at \$85.7 billion for 1977, a rise of about 5 percent over 1976. All major expenses increased except feed, fertilizer, and net rent to nonoperator landlords.

While farmers increased overall output by nearly 3½ percent and faced a 5-percent rise in prices of production items, interest, taxes and wage rates, they apparently made changes in their input mix to help hold down costs. The large crops in 1977 also resulted in higher costs for storage.

Restricted cash flow for many grain farmers caused some refinancing of existing loans, and the conversion of some short-term loans into longer term instruments. Thus, interest charges for operating and real estate debt increased relatively more than other leading expenses.

While interest charges registered the largest percentage gains, depreciation accounted for the largest dollar increase. But depreciation is figured on replacement values and is not a cash expense. Because of such noncash items both on the gross income and expense side, net farm income is not a cash flow measure, whether computed with or without an adjustment for inventory changes.

SELECTED FARM PRODUCTION EXPENSES¹

Account	1975	1976	1977
	\$ Bil.		
Feed purchased	12.6	13.9	13.7
Livestock purchased	4.9	5.8	6.4
Fertilizer	6.4	6.2	5.9
Repair and operation	7.6	8.3	8.9
Hired labor	6.4	7.0	7.6
Interest	6.6	7.3	8.1
Depreciation	12.6	13.9	15.0
Taxes on property	3.3	3.5	3.8
Total production expenses	75.9	81.7	85.7

¹ For calendar year.



Food and Marketing

Recent gains in farm commodity prices, abetted by weather-related disruptions in the flow of some commodities from the farm through the marketing system, have pushed retail food prices higher this winter. Further increases are likely through midyear, reflecting the recent rise in commodity prices and the continued increases in marketing and distribution costs. However, the rate of increase in food prices is expected to slow as the year progresses.

Retail food prices for the January-March quarter will likely average 2 to 3 percent above the final quarter of 1977. Practically all of the first quarter increase is associated with U.S.-produced farm foods, in contrast with last year when coffee was a major contributor to rising food prices.

Prices to farmers for domestic farm food commodities probably will average around 5 percent higher this winter than the seasonal lows last fall. Marketing spreads, the difference between what the consumer pays and the farmer receives for these foods, likely will average 1 to 2 percent higher than last fall—the result of continued increases for wage rates, transportation charges, and other costs incurred by marketing firms.

Compared with a year earlier, first quarter food prices likely will average about 7 percent higher, with both at-home and away-from-home prices sharing the gain.

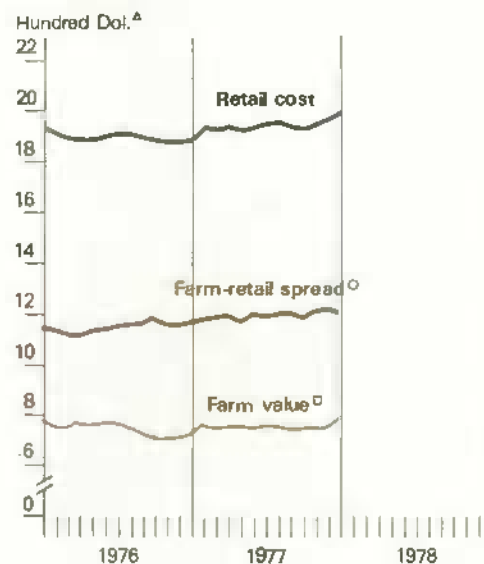
First quarter prices for imported foods and fish may average nearly 20 percent higher, after sharp increases through the first half of 1977 and only modest declines through the second half. Prices for U.S.-produced farm foods likely will average around 5 percent above the first quarter of 1977, with farm values up about 6 percent and marketing spreads up about 4 percent.

The rate of increase in retail food prices is expected to slow by spring. Second quarter food prices likely will average 1 or 2 percent above the winter quarter. Since prices last spring rose more rapidly than they likely will this spring, the increase from a year earlier may narrow to 5 or 6 percent.

Further price declines for coffee and cocoa may about offset anticipated increases for other imported foods and fish, holding average prices for this category of foods relatively stable. Consequently, most of the upward pressure on overall food prices is expected from foods produced on U.S. farms.

Supplies of pork, broilers, eggs, and dairy products are expected to become more plentiful by spring. But smaller supplies of beef, rising consumer income, and increasing marketing costs will contribute to further moderate price advances for most animal food products. Further seasonal price

PRICE SPREADS DECLINE IN JANUARY



▲ Annual rate per household for market basket of farm foods.

○ Gross margin received by marketing firms for assembling, processing, transporting, and distributing.

□ Gross return to farmers for equivalent amounts of farm foods.

increases for fresh and processed fruits and vegetables, along with rising processing and marketing costs for most other food products, will also contribute to the expected moderate food price rise.

Food prices beyond midyear will depend heavily on weather. Relatively favorable growing weather for crops and anticipated increases in grain feeding for livestock operations could result in generally ample food supplies and seasonally lower farm prices for most food commodities through late summer and fall. But continued inflationary pressures on food marketing costs likely will be offsetting—holding retail food prices about steady.

For all of 1978, food prices still appear likely to average in the previously projected range of 4 to 6 percent above the 1977 average.

January Food Prices Bulge

Grocery store food prices for January registered a sharp 1.1-percent increase from December. Average price for imported foods and fish rose slightly following several months of decline late last year. Higher prices for fish and sugar contributed to the January rise for this category of foods, more than offsetting further declines for coffee.

Retail prices for U.S.-produced farm foods rose 1.3 percent from December. Increases in the farm value of these foods, up around 4-percent for the month, accounted for practically all of the rise. Marketing spreads were down slightly from December to January despite continued cost pressures on food marketing firms.

In the major food categories, animal products contributed most to the January retail price increase. Egg prices gained nearly 14 percent from a month earlier. Also up were: poultry prices, up about 3 percent, red meat prices up a little over 2 percent, with pork contributing more to the rise than beef; fishery product prices, up 1 percent; and dairy products, up only slightly.

Prices for crop food products were generally more stable than prices for animal foods. Sugar and sweets registered the largest gain, up 2.4 percent from December. Cereal and bakery prices rose 1 percent, while processed fruits and vegetables and other processed foods were only fractionally higher. Prices for fresh fruits and vegetables were slightly lower.

Compared with a year earlier, January food prices were up about 8 percent. Prices for imported foods and fish remained more than a fifth above January 1977. Retail prices for domestic farm foods were up about 6 percent, the result of a 9-percent rise in the average farm value coupled with a 4 percent gain in marketing spreads.

Retail price changes for January discussed in this section are based on the unrevised Consumer Price Index (CPI) for wage earners and clerical workers released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) on February 27. At the same time, BLS introduced a revised CPI for wage earners and clerical workers and a new CPI for all urban consumers.

The revised and new index series are based on consumer expenditure patterns during 1972-74, and the unrevised series is based on expenditure patterns for 1960-61. Price increases for food were generally larger for both the new and the revised indexes than for the unrevised index. *Henry Badger, (202) 447-8454, and Larry Summers, (202) 447-8707*

Food Consumption Per Person Declined Slightly in 1977

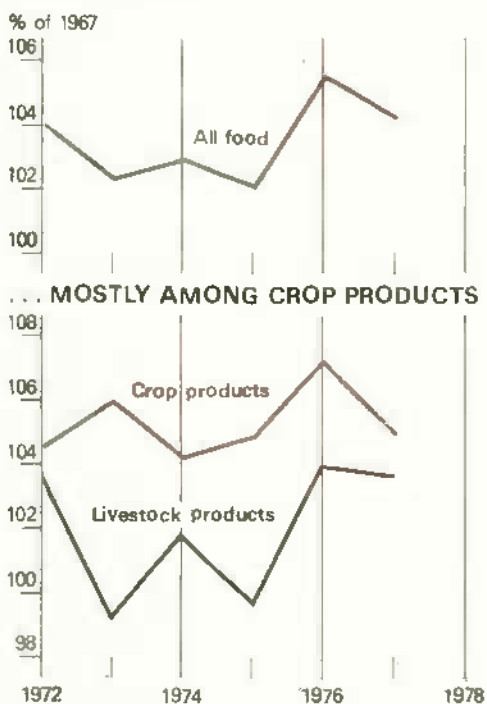
Per capita food consumption in 1977 remained high, but was still about 1 percent below the record level of 1976. Domestic consumption of animal products was slightly below a year earlier, while crop foods declined 2 percent. (See Statistical Indicators section for detailed per capita data).

While the consumption of combined animal products changed little last year, significant changes occurred for some individual items. Per person poultry consumption including chickens and turkeys, was up 2 percent from 1976. Beef consumption fell around 3 percent, but pork use per person rose around 4 percent. This reflected the continued drop in cattle numbers while pork production was expanding.

More than half of the 1977 decline in per capita consumption of crop foods was due to the reduction in coffee consumption. Tight world supplies and sharply higher prices cut per capita coffee use by a fourth. Smaller changes were recorded for other foods of crop origin. Vegetable oil consumption was down 4 percent, while fruits and vegetables showed 1-percent declines. Potatoes were up 1 percent from a year ago and sugar and sweetener consumption rose 2 percent.

Early prospects for 1978 indicate that total food consumption may be slightly above 1977 but likely below the record level of 1976. Small increases are expected in the consumption of foods from both animal and crop sources. Gains in pork and poultry use will more than offset declines in beef. Per person consumption increases are in prospect for vegetables and potato products, but domestic usage of fruits and coffee may decline. *Larry V. Summers, (202) 447-8707, and Allen Johnson, (202) 447-7348*

PER CAPITA FOOD USE DOWN IN 1977...





Policy

The Administration recently announced actions to help improve grain prices during the remainder of this crop year and through the next. The decisions included raising the storage payments to farmers who participate in the producer-held reserve, and allowing producers to place their grain in the reserve immediately effective March 1, thus qualifying for the increased storage payments. The producer-held reserve isolates grain from the market, and can have an immediate price effect. For the longer run, the set-aside program can help restrain production and bolster prices.

1978 Set-Aside Summarized

The President on February 8 finalized a 10-percent feed grain set-aside program for 1978. Wheat set-aside provisions had already been announced last fall. Although cotton will have no set-aside requirements this year, upland cotton producers who want to assure themselves of target price protection on 100 percent of their planted acreage must voluntarily reduce their plantings at least 20 percent from last year's levels.

Wheat and feed grain producers who participate in the programs are assured of target price protection on at least 80 percent of their planted acreage. Cotton producers who participate in the program, however, have no guaranteed level of target price protection because the allocation factor has no minimum. Deficiency or target price payments

are based on a farmer's program acreage, which is a product of the allocation factor times his planted acreage. The allocation factor is determined by dividing the national cotton program acreage, tentatively announced at 10.2 million acres, by the number of harvested acres. (A more detailed explanation of these concepts is included in the policy section of the November 1977 issue of *Agricultural Outlook*.)

Wheat and feed grain producers who desire target price protection on 100 percent of their planted acreage must, in addition to meeting the specified set-aside requirements, voluntarily reduce their plantings from last year's levels by the proportions shown in the accompanying table. Producers can sign up for the 1978 set-aside programs at their local Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) county offices from March 1 through May 1.

Program Participation Polled

In late January, USDA asked farmers in 10 major corn and sorghum producing States about their intentions for participating in this year's feed grain program. Of the producers who raised corn in 1977, 21 percent planned to participate in the program, 42 percent did not, and 37 percent

were undecided. Of the respondents who raised grain sorghum in 1977, 37 percent planned to participate, 23 percent did not, and 39 percent were undecided.

The proportion of participating acreage would probably be somewhat higher than the proportion of participating producers, since both corn and sorghum producers planning to participate tended to have larger than average acreage. If participation in the feed grain program lags, the producer-held reserve program could grow in importance.

Grain Reserves Encouraged

The President also announced an increase in the annual Government storage payment for the farmer-owned reserve from 20 to 25 cents per bushel for the major grains. Producers currently storing grain in the reserve will be offered new contracts at the 25-cent rate. The increased storage rates should encourage more participation in the producer-held reserve program which will isolate excess supplies from the market and boost grain prices. The price effect of the program will be directly related to the timing and quantity of grains that producers commit.

Farmers participating in this program must first get a nonrecourse loan. They can then put their grain under a reserve contract for a 3-year period and receive annual storage payments in advance. Once the grain is under contract, producers cannot redeem their loans without penalty unless the price reaches the minimum release level which is 140 percent of the current loan rate for wheat and 125 percent for feed grains. A program goal is to bolster market prices by building a reserve of about 670 million bushels, corn equivalent, (17 million metric tons) of feed grains and around 330 million bushels (9 million metric tons) of wheat.

If the feed grain reserve objective is met by September 30, the end of the 1977/78 corn marketing year, farm corn prices could average around 5 to 15 cents a bushel more than in the absence of the reserve. Prospects for 1978 crops both here and abroad will also be a major pricing factor.

Attaining the producer-held wheat reserve objective by May 31, the end of the current marketing year, could mean farm wheat prices of 10 to 15 cents more than without the reserve. This is independent of any effect from the 6-million-ton International Emergency Food Reserve. As of February 15, nearly a third of the producer-held wheat

1978 CROP PROGRAMS

	Set-aside	Voluntary reduction from 1977	Target price	Loan level
	Percent		Dollars*	
Corn	10	5	2.10	2.00
Sorghum	10	5	(¹)	(²)
Barley	10	20	(¹)	(³)
Oats	—	—	—	—
Wheat	20	20	³ 3.00	⁴ 2.25
Soybeans	—	—	—	(⁵)
Upland cotton ..	0	20	.52	.44
Rice	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)

¹ Will be set in a fair and reasonable relation to corn. ² Will be set in a fair and reasonable relation to corn, taking into account feeding value and other considerations. ³ If wheat production is 1.8 billion bushels or below, the target will be \$3.05 per bushel. ⁴ May be increased to \$2.35 if 1977 marketing year average price exceeds 105 percent of the current loan of \$2.25. ⁵ To be announced. *Dollars per bushel for corn and wheat; dollars per pound for cotton.

reserve target had been achieved with 1976-crop wheat, but less than 2 million bushels of 1976-crop feed grains had been committed.

Beginning in March, 1977-crop barley, oats, and wheat could be placed directly in the producer-held reserve programs without waiting until a Government loan on the crop matured. Also, early entry of corn and sorghum into the reserve will be allowed at a later date.

The Secretary also announced a change in the farm storage facility loan program that will increase the amount of storage for which reserve program participants may qualify. Under the change, a farmer can get a loan to build storage structures with capacity for 2 years' production. Existing storage capacity will no longer be considered in determining eligibility. *Cecil Davison, (202) 447-8840*

Editor's Note: The parity price of a particular commodity is the price that would give a unit of the commodity the same purchasing power that it had in the base period. For example, the parity price of wheat in February 1978 was \$5.07 per bushel, which means that the price of a bushel of wheat would have to have been \$5.07 in order for it to have the same purchasing power that a bushel of wheat had in 1910-14.

A statement in the January-February AO indicated that "if commodities were at full parity, farmers would have the same purchasing power as during the 1910-14 period." This could be interpreted as meaning that parity relates to the overall purchasing power of farmers, which is not the case. Parity relates solely to the purchasing power of a given unit of an individual commodity.

Budget Expenditures for Agriculture Up Sharply in Fiscal 1978

Current budget estimates indicate expenditures for farm income stabilization in the current fiscal year (October 1977-September 1978) are expected to hit \$7.9 billion, up from \$4.5 billion last year and considerably above the \$1.3 billion average of 1974-76.

Large supplies and mounting stocks in recent years have weakened prices of major crop commodities to near loan rates. As a result, farmers have been making increased use of the loan programs. Wheat deficiency payments are likely to total around \$1.1 billion in fiscal 1978. Also, emergency loans increased sharply in 1977 when more than two-thirds of U.S. counties were declared eligible for financial assistance because of adverse weather. The impacts of these loans will continue during much of 1978.

In the proposed budget for fiscal 1979, total outlays for farm income stabilization are estimated at \$4.2 billion, down \$3.7 billion from fiscal 1978 estimates. Most of the decline is in price support programs, the largest component of farm income stabilization expenditures. However, this drop is based on two specific assumptions regarding programs and weather.

Lower price support spending is contingent upon the success of the acreage set-asides for wheat and feed grains established for 1978 crops and the creation of two reserves—a farmer-held grain reserve and an international emergency wheat reserve. If successful, the set-aside and reserve programs would bring supplies of feed grains and wheat more nearly into a balance with demand that would lessen the need for price supports.

Outlays estimates for 1979 also assume normal weather both here and abroad, which usually results in an abundance of farm products. In the absence of acreage set-asides, normal weather could result in substantially higher outlays for farm income stabilization. At the same time, favorable weather would be expected to sharply reduce disaster payments and emergency loans in fiscal 1979.

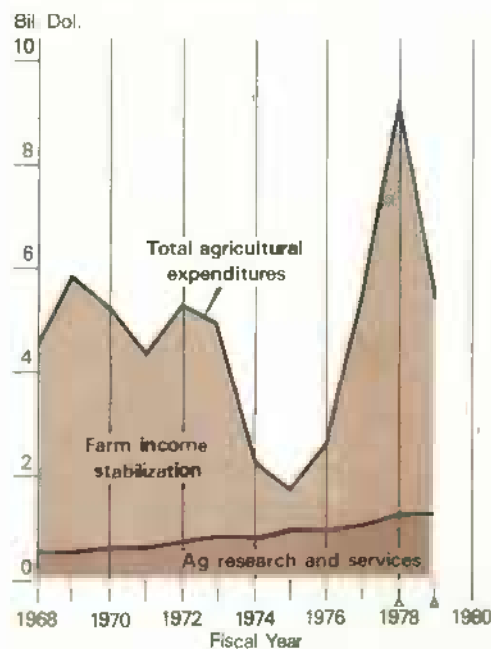
However, if these assumptions regarding programs and weather do not materialize and crops continue in oversupply, then the Food and Agriculture Act may require larger outlays for price support operations in fiscal 1979 than are currently budgeted.

Some \$1.3 billion has been budgeted for fiscal 1979 for agricultural research and service functions—including research, extension, economic intelligence, and animal and plant health. Expenditures in this category have been increasing gradually over the years, with much less fluctuation than outlays for farm income stabilization which are dependent on the agricultural supply-demand situation and weather conditions.

Other budget items of importance to the food and fiber sector include the food stamp, school lunch, and other nutritional programs, as well as the Food for Peace (PL-480) program. Expenditures for all food programs for fiscal 1979 are budgeted at \$9.5 billion, up from \$9.2 billion estimated for this year. Outlays for the food stamp program, estimated at \$5.7 billion in fiscal 1979, are expected to benefit around 18 million people.

The Food for Peace program is scheduled to spend \$1.1 billion in 1979, about the same as in fiscal 1978. These outlays will provide for around 6.7 million tons of food aid next year, about two-thirds of the total world food aid target set by the United Nations. *Ruth Elleston, (202) 447-7643*

FARM PROGRAM OUTLAYS UP SHARPLY IN FISCAL 1978; BUDGETED LOWER IN 1979



▲ Estimated.



Commodities

The major outlook developments over the past month concern the implications of the livestock inventory at the start of this year.

As expected, the cattle inventory was down from a year earlier—and a further drop seems likely during 1978. However, the hog and poultry industries are both in an expansion phase.

Cattle Inventory Down

Cattle numbers on U.S. farms declined again in 1977 for the third straight year. The total inventory was down to about 116 million head at the beginning of this year, nearly 16 million below the peak in 1975. This is the sharpest drop in numbers for any period on record.

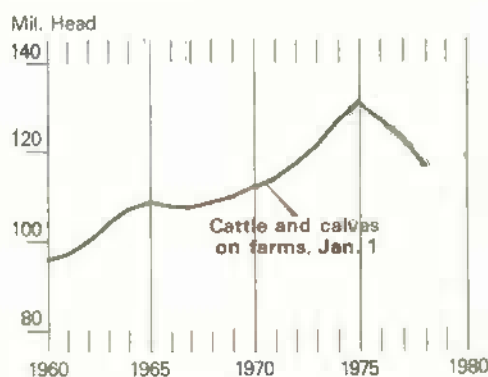
The large reduction in the beef cow herd, the basic unit on which future beef supplies depends, points to lower beef supplies and higher prices for the next few years. January 1 beef cow numbers, at 38.7 million, were down about 7 million from the record at the beginning of 1975. Large financial losses plus droughts were mostly to blame for the massive selloff.

A sharp decline also occurred in heifers held for intended beef cow replacements. At 5.8 million, there were 700,000 fewer than a year earlier. This reflects the poor financial condition of many cattlemen. Even if we get a 14 to 18 percent drop in cow slaughter this year as expected, the lower number of replacement heifers means we're not likely to see an increase in the beef cow herd before next year. However, producers could add more heifers than indicated in their intentions.

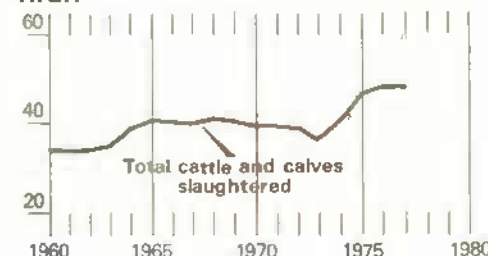
This continued decline in the cattle herd points to smaller supplies of beef and veal over the next few years—and as beef supplies decline, cattle prices are expected to trend upward. However, in the near term, cattle producers could see a temporary drop in cattle prices because of the large number of cattle in feedlots which will be coming to market in late winter and early spring.

On February 1, there were 9 percent more cattle on feed in the seven major cattle feeding States than a year earlier. These cattle will produce a large quantity of fed beef which will keep the lid on fat cattle prices until at least midspring. If marketings "bunch up" over the next 2 months, Choice steer prices could drop a few dollars below their late February \$45-\$46 per cwt. level. After spring, however, prices are expected to rise and hold strong for the remainder of the year. *James Nix, (202) 447-8143*

CATTLE INVENTORY CONTINUES TO DECLINE...



... AS SLAUGHTER CONTINUES HIGH



Total Meat Supplies To Remain Large

For the year, red meat and poultry supplies are expected to be near 1977. There likely will be more fed beef, pork, and poultry but less nonfed or lean beef. The decline in nonfed beef will more than offset the increase in fed beef, and total beef supplies will drop.

These smaller supplies of beef point to higher beef prices at the supermarket. During January, retail beef prices were about 5 percent above a year earlier. Prices are expected to continue above 1977 throughout the year.

Pork prices, on the other hand, are expected to trend downward from January, when they were about 10 percent above a year earlier. During most of first half 1978, retail pork prices may remain above the year-earlier level. However, during the second half, prices will likely show year-to-year declines as pork supplies rise. *James Nix, (202) 447-8143*

Feed Demand Stronger Than Last Year

Feed grains (corn, sorghum, oats, and barley combined) fed to U.S. livestock and poultry in 1977/78 likely will increase to 119 million metric tons in 1977/78, up 6 percent from a year ago.

Cattle on feed and hog numbers are both running ahead of a year ago—and current forecasts indicate 6-percent gains are likely for both fed beef and pork output during the current crop year. Additionally, dairy-men, encouraged by improved feed-milk price ratios, have been feeding 5 to 6 percent more concentrates per animal since last fall. And poultry production is increasing moderately and likely will require 3 to 5 percent more feed in 1977/78.

Corn feeding this season is likely to reach 3.8 billion bushels, a 7-percent gain over last season but still well below the peak of 4.3 billion bushels fed 5 years ago. Although hog numbers are now expanding, they are still well below the levels of the early 1970's.

Sorghum feeding, comparatively sluggish last fall, likely will pick up during the rest of the season as more sorghum farmers begin to market their grain through livestock to increase incomes. Sorghum feeding for the year is projected to increase 4 to 8 percent.

Barley feeding has been sluggish and probably will wind up a little below the 161 million bushels fed in 1976/77. Oat feeding during June-December 1977 was nearly equal to that of a year earlier, but for the entire season probably will total slightly above the 489 million bushels fed in 1976/77.

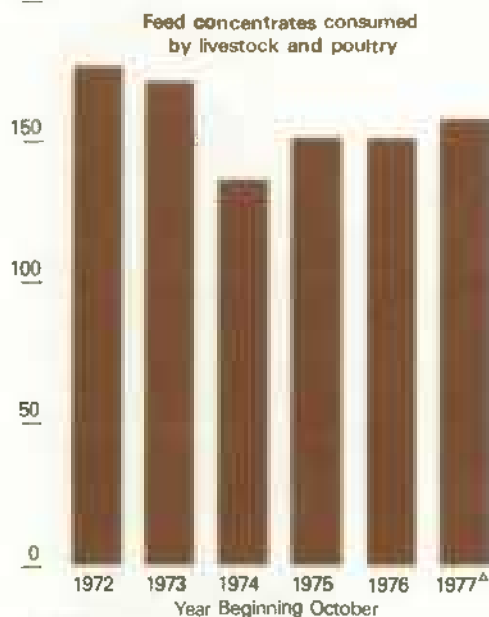
Wheat feeding for the 1977 feeding year may total 180 million bushels, down from 250 million fed last year. Wheat prices this summer may be less competitive than last year when wheat was priced well below feed grains in many areas. *Jack Ross, (202) 447-8636*

Soybean meal supplies for 1977/78 are estimated at more than a tenth above the previous season—and domestic use is expected to reach a new high of around 16 million tons, up about 2 million tons or nearly 15 percent. Significantly lower meal prices this season are making soybean meal more competitively priced relative to corn, based on their respective feed values (total digestible nutrients). Also, the number of livestock and poultry being fed this marketing year is up significantly.

The increased supplies of soybeans and meal in 1977/78 are resulting in meal prices sharply below last season's level—possibly averaging near \$155 per ton, compared with \$200 last season. *George Kromer, (202) 447-8444*

INCREASED FEED USE LIKELY THIS YEAR

Mil. Metric Tons
200



Δ Projected.



Inputs

This is the time of year when farmers are finalizing their planting plans for the upcoming season. In so doing, farmers will be looking at a number of factors including commodity price relationships, program alternatives, and the supply-demand situation for certain production inputs. Consequently, this month's focus is on the availability and prices for pesticides, fertilizer, and fuels during the upcoming season.

Pesticide Supplies Appear Ample

Pesticide supplies available for use in 1978 are expected to be up around 2 percent from last year, and they should be ample relative to the rather stable use expected this year. As a result, farmers should find prices about the same as, or slightly below, 1977 levels.

Production of pesticides for 1978 application is likely to rise around 3 percent over last year. Producers have slackened output increases following fairly large production gains and weaker prices in 1977. Total inventories at the beginning of the 1978 season are down slightly from a year ago. However, relative to production, manufacturer's inventories are still about normal and are higher than the ratios at the beginning of 1975 and 1976.

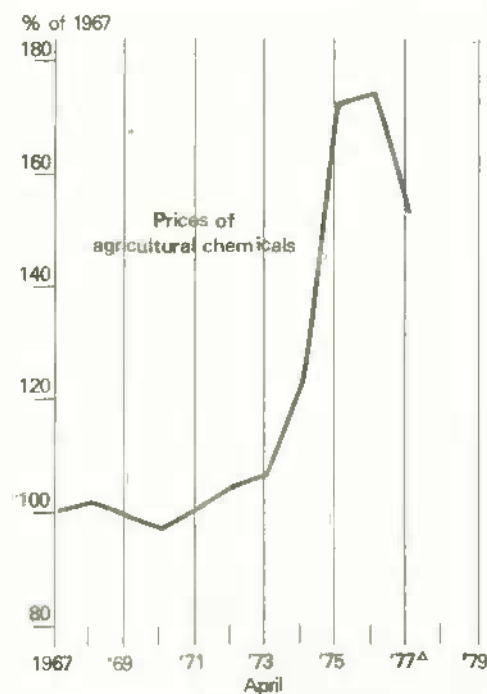
Pesticide manufacturers are planning only limited expansion in production capacity for 1978—likely around 3 percent over 1977. This follows several years of substantial additions to facilities, especially for herbicides. In 1977, overall pesticide production capacity was boosted 16 percent.

Total pesticide use by farmers this year will likely be down around 2 percent from 1977 levels. Estimates of 1978 pesticide use by farmers are based on the January 1 planting intentions. Reduced consumption resulting from smaller total crop acreage will be partially offset by more intensive use of pesticides. Final consumption for 1978 will depend to a large extent on how much acreage farmers eventually plant.

Prices paid by farmers for pesticides in 1977 dropped 5 to 7 percent from the previous year following a sharp runup in 1975 and fairly level prices in 1976. These higher prices encouraged manufacturers to boost output substantially in 1976-77. Large inventories and weak demand last year forced many dealers to lower prices to cost or below. As a result, some dealers have discontinued handling pesticides.

The pesticide price outlook is mixed for 1978, with manufacturers and distributors anticipating modest price rises of 2 to 5 percent. However, because of ample supplies relative to demand, prices paid by farmers are expected to remain about steady with slight price declines likely for some items.

AG CHEMICAL PRICES DROP SHARPLY



Reported in May in 1977.

A brief look at the major pesticides follows:

Herbicides: These are the fastest growing of any pesticides. Herbicide use has expanded sharply in recent years, with more acres being treated more intensively. Larger use resulted as growers shifted from band to broadcast applications. However, the increase in intensity of use has moderated, and the change in the number of acres planted is becoming the most important factor in explaining consumption levels.

Overall herbicide use this year may hold close to 1977 levels if farmers' January 1 planting intentions materialize. Cutbacks in wheat, corn, and cotton acreage will reduce needs, but larger use on soybeans should be offsetting.

Herbicide supplies may be down slightly in 1978 because of reduced manufacturers' inventories. As a result, prices may generally hold fairly steady, although prices of herbicides used on soybeans could strengthen because of increased demand by soybean growers.

Insecticides: Supplies of insecticides are expected to increase some 5 percent in 1978 with larger production likely. Reduced cotton and corn acreage will likely cut insecticide use around 4 percent this year. The most important factor affecting 1978 use will be cotton acreage planted. Application rates for the two major crop users, corn and cotton, appear to have stabilized, and insecticide use is almost directly related to acres grown.

PESTICIDE SUPPLY AND USE, 1978 ESTIMATE

Item	Percent change from 1977	
	Farm use	Supplies
Herbicides:		
Corn and soybeans	+3	n.a.
Cotton	-6	n.a.
Small grains ¹	-5	n.a.
All herbicides	0	-2
Insecticides:		
Corn	-2	n.a.
Cotton	-6	n.a.
All insecticides	-4	+5

¹ Includes wheat, oats, and barley; n.a., not available.

Consequently, look for fairly strong downward pressure on prices of insecticides. In 1977, prices declined around 5 percent for insecticide products.

For a more detailed description of the pesticide outlook, see *Evaluation of Pesticide Supplies and Demand for 1978*, available from ESCS Publications, Room 0054 South Building, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. Theodore Eichers and Paul Andrienas, (202) 447-6620)

Fertilizer Use May Remain Near Year Earlier

Domestic consumption of fertilizer in the 1977/78 season will likely remain close to or slightly below a year earlier based on farmers' January 1 planting intentions. Nitrogen use may be down slightly, but phosphate and potash use could be about equal to last year. Fertilizer application rates are expected to be up, but a reduction in total planted acres to be fertilized could be offsetting.

With use expected to be relatively stable, supplies should be adequate for the coming season. Manufacturers' inventories are up substantially from a year earlier. Production of the three major plant nutrients—nitrogen, phosphate and potash—is also above last year.

Overall, fertilizer prices paid by farmers in January were up slightly from a year earlier but were down about 2 percent from October-November prices. Price changes since last fall were mixed, with most of the decline occurring for nitrogen materials. With consumption of phosphate and potash expected to hold close to last year's levels, prices may remain stable. Plentiful nitrogen supplies will continue to put pressure on prices; however, attempts will be made to raise prices with any improvement in the oversupply situation.

Fertilizer Exports Up

U.S. exports of all fertilizer materials reached almost 12 million metric tons during July-December 1977 (the first half of the 1977/78 fertilizer year), an increase of 30 percent over the same period a year earlier. Most of the gain was in phosphate rock exports.

Total imports during this period increased 5 percent to 5.6 million metric tons, with potassium chloride and nitrogen products accounting for most of the imports. Nearly four-fifths of all fertilizer imports—mostly potash—originated in Canada.

Despite excess domestic ammonia capacity, Canadian nitrogen imports have also become important. Much of this nitrogen is imported by midwestern cooperatives who operate the Canadian production facilities. Paul Andrienas, (202) 447-6620, and Richard Rortvedt, (202) 447-5457

Energy Supplies Uncertain

Although this winter began with higher temperatures than were experienced last winter, January and February were exceptionally cold with record precipitation throughout much of the country. However, fuel supplies have been generally adequate this winter and, thus far, no significant energy disruptions have been experienced, with the exception of coal.

Natural Gas: Prices increased significantly during 1977, partly because the Federal Power Commission raised the wellhead price for natural gas to 51.42 per thousand cubic feet. While supply does not appear to be a major constraint this year, due to better emergency planning, prices continue to escalate. Natural gas prices for agricultural users are likely to increase a minimum of 10 to 20 percent during 1978.

FUEL AND ENERGY PRICES PAID BY FARMERS

Month and year	Diesel	Gasoline ¹	Fuels and energy
	Cts. per gal.		1967=100
1976			
Jan.	41.4	52.5	185
Apr.	40.7	51.3	183
July	41.7	54.2	189
Oct.	41.5	54.6	190
1977			
Jan.	43.1	54.7	196
Apr.	44.8	56.4	201
July	45.0	57.8	204
Oct.	45.7	57.5	204
1978			
Jan.	45.8	57.8	206

¹ Bulk delivery

LP Gas: Supplies should be adequate in 1978, but spot shortages due to distribution are characteristic of this fuel. Agricultural users can expect continued price increases of 10 to 15 percent.

Diesel and Gasoline: The supply of these petroleum products should be adequate for demand during 1978, although at somewhat higher prices. The OPEC producers agreed on no immediate price increase at their January meeting; however, they meet again in July to reconsider their pricing policies.

Electricity: The electricity situation remains uncertain because of the coal strike. Such areas as western Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Kentucky that are extremely dependent on coal for electricity generation will be hard-pressed to escape economic hardship even if the tentative strike settlement is approved. After the miners return to work, it will still take around a month for production to reach pre-strike levels. With sharply lower coal stockpiles, electricity use may face some curtailments.

On the other hand, heavy rains on the West Coast have broken the drought and reservoirs are refilling so that generating capacity should be adequate. *Patricia Devlin, (202) 447-7147*

Western Snowpack Continues To Build . . .

The snowpack over most of the West's mountain ranges continues to build, giving further evidence that the severe drought of the last 2 years is broken.

Soil Conservation Service surveys taken early in February found that most areas of the West had a heavier snowpack than normal. However, in parts of Arizona and New Mexico, the snowpack was well below normal.

A heavy snowpack had accumulated in parts of Wyoming and on the Sierra Nevada range in California. In northern Colorado, the snowpack at some sites was the heaviest ever measured on February 1. Just 1 year ago, this area experienced a record low snowpack.

Reservoir storage remained well below normal throughout the West, but forecasts of spring runoff indicate that storage deficits will be made up before summer. Snowmelt runoff should be normal or above normal except in Arizona, New Mexico, and parts of Oregon. Above normal runoff is expected from northern Colorado rivers and from the headwaters of the Snake River in Wyoming. California's reservoir outlook remains favorable.

Coal Strike Impacts

Coal represents a minimal portion of direct energy use in the U.S. food, fiber, and forest products system. However, coal is the major fuel in producing electricity which, in turn, is a principal energy source in the food system.

A tentative settlement of the coal strike had been reached as this issue went to press. Even if the strike is settled, it will take around a month for coal production to reach pre-strike levels. With coal stockpiles sharply lower, power cutbacks by utilities could still continue to affect industrial users. However, if the coal strike continues, there could be severe electric power shortages which could affect the food system.

The electricity situation is critical in Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, West Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and parts of Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, and Illinois. In many of these States, most of the generating capacity is coal fired. As of the end of February, some plants had less than a 20-day inventory of coal and many others less than a 40-day supply. Multifuel capabilities at these coal burning plants are virtually nonexistent.

Several options are being used to combat coal and power shortages. Electric power transmission from outside these States, occurring to some extent at present, can provide a maximum of 12 to 13 percent of daily electricity needs. An allocation program facilitates moving coal from surplus to deficit areas. Emission control standards can be temporarily eased to permit utilities to burn western, high sulfur coal.

However, these alternatives appear insufficient to avoid massive electric power curtailments—particularly to industrial users—should the strike continue into mid-March and beyond.

By late February, State utility commissions were initiating 25-percent curtailments to industrial users in those areas facing the most severe coal shortages (particularly Indiana and Ohio). Sharper cutbacks would be expected if the strike continues.

R. Thomas Van Arsdall, (202) 447-5457

Higher Energy

Prices Threaten Pump Irrigators . . .

Farmers who use pump irrigation are particularly vulnerable to increasing energy prices, according to a report recently published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

When energy prices rise, these farmers can't easily pass on the increased costs to buyers, since their crops, such as corn, wheat, and grain sorghum, are also grown by many farmers who don't rely on pump irrigation.

Pump irrigators, 80 percent of whom are in the 17 western States, have several ways to adjust to higher input prices. They can shift to more energy-efficient crops, or select more energy-efficient farming practices and irrigation distribution systems. However, the potential for each of these alternatives is limited.

The report measures energy costs for pumping and other uses (such as nitrogen fertilizer and fuel for farm equipment), and compares total energy costs for pump irrigators vs. other farmers.

Higher energy prices, concludes the report, are weakening the competitive position of irrigated agricultural production. Alternative sources of low-cost energy are needed to help preserve the irrigated agricultural economy.

Single free copies of the report, "Farmer Adjustment to Higher Energy Prices: The Case of Pump Irrigators" (ERS-663) are available from ESCS Publications, Rm. 0054-S, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Please include your zip code.

More for Motor Vehicles . . .

Farmers were paying more for new vehicles in mid-November than they did 6 months earlier, but paid less for used cars and trucks. USDA figures show that the average price paid by farmers for intermediate-size cars rose nearly \$400 since May. Pickup trucks cost about \$300 more, and 2-ton trucks took an additional \$600. However, helping ease the price pinch were used cars, down \$220 to an average of \$1,870, and used trucks, with prices ranging \$200 to \$260 less than the previous May.



World Agriculture and Trade

U.S. agricultural export prospects for fiscal 1978¹ are looking somewhat better than they did late last year, and our forecasts of export volume and value have both been raised. Export volume is now expected to reach a record of over 110 million metric tons, up 8 percent from fiscal 1977.

The value of U.S. agricultural exports may still decline from last year's record \$24 billion—perhaps to around \$22½ billion—as lower prices for wheat, corn, soybeans, and cotton more than offset the increased export volume. Export prices for all U.S. farm products could average a tenth or more below those of fiscal 1977.

However, for the remainder of this year, prices as well as volume will be affected by prospects for 1978 world crops, particularly in the Southern Hemisphere, and by U.S. grower participation in the set-aside and reserve programs. Depending on these developments, export value could range from \$22 to \$24 billion.

The improvement in the export picture since our December report is based on reassessments in the grains, oilseeds, and cotton sectors. Feed grain exports in fiscal 1978 are now projected to be around 1 million tons more than earlier forecast. Oilseed prices are running slightly higher than

expected, although they are still well below year-earlier levels.

With the large U.S. cotton crop and competitive prices, U.S. exports of raw cotton have picked up sharply along with some recent recovery in foreign textile demand. The fiscal 1978 forecast of cotton exports has been boosted 6 percent to 5 million bales, now ahead of last year's strong levels.

Although export volume held about the same as a year earlier in October-December 1977, U.S. agricultural export value dropped around 5 percent to \$6.1 billion. However, this unfavorable year-to-year comparison is partly explained by the longshoremen's strike which disrupted East Coast shipping during last October and November. Also, exports of U.S. grains and soybeans were unusually heavy during October-December 1976 because of drought-reduced production in Western Europe.

Record Grain and Oilseed Exports Anticipated

The record volume projected for fiscal 1978 U.S. agricultural exports is expected to result from a resurgence in wheat exports to 31 million metric tons, a small gain in feed grains to a record high 51.6 million tons, and a new soybean record of 16.6 million tons.

Strong world wheat demand will likely boost U.S. wheat exports 25 percent in fiscal 1978. Since other major exporters have

already committed their available supplies, only the United States has the supplies and movement capacity for export expansion. Despite lower export prices, the larger volume is expected to push the value of wheat and flour exports up a tenth from fiscal 1977 to around \$3.3 billion.

Feed grain tonnage to Western Europe may be off 5 million tons in fiscal 1978, but increases to the USSR, Eastern Europe, Japan, and East Asia will be more than offsetting. Even with the slight increase anticipated in feed grain export volume, lower prices will reduce the value to about \$4.8 billion, around 10 percent below a year ago.

U.S. feed grain exports during October-December 1977 were down 16 percent from the year-earlier volume, but, based on inspections, these exports have been running at a record pace in recent weeks. Large gains are expected for the rest of the year to the USSR and Eastern Europe.

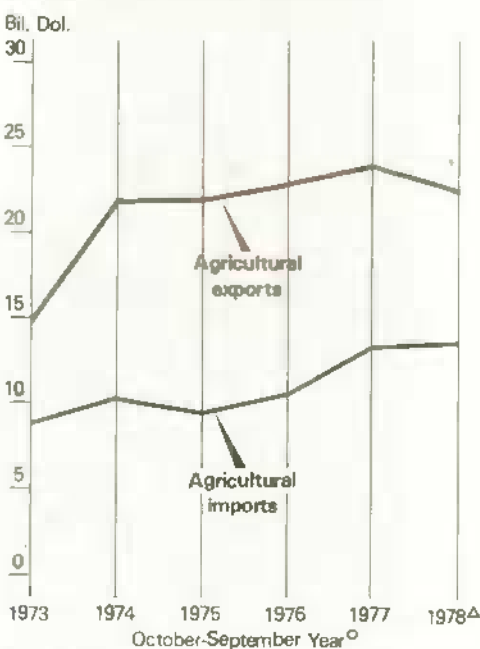
The export value of U.S. oilseeds and products is expected to total \$5.4 billion, 16 percent below fiscal 1977. Sharply lower prices will account for the anticipated decline. However, the outlook for U.S. soybean exports has recently improved with a mid-February sale to the USSR and with estimates of the drought damage to Brazil's 1978 soybean crop. Export volumes of oilmeal and vegetable oils, as well as soybeans, will be well above year-earlier levels.

Export Prospects Off to Western Europe; Up to USSR

Good harvests of feed grains, fodders, and selected vegetables in Western Europe will contribute to a value decline of about a fifth in U.S. farm product exports to that market in fiscal 1978. During October-December 1977, the export value of U.S. feed grains and vegetables dropped 50 and 65 percent, respectively, below the high levels of a year earlier.

U.S. soybean and soybean meal shipments to Western Europe are expected to expand in fiscal 1978 as a result of increased demand for high protein feeds. U.S. wheat exports will likely be higher because of greater demand for higher quality milling wheat (especially in the European Community) and a disappointing production level.

U.S. FARM EXPORTS MAY DECLINE IN FISCAL 1978; TRADE BALANCE TO NARROW



[○] Ending with year indicated. ^Δ Forecast.

¹ Oct. 1, 1977, through Sept. 30, 1978.

VOLUME OF U.S. AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS

Commodity	Fiscal year		
	1976	1977	1978 ¹
	Million metric tons		
Wheat and flour	30.61	24.72	31.0
Feed grains	49.86	50.60	51.6
Rice	1.95	2.23	2.2
Soybeans	15.05	15.16	16.6
Vegetable oils . . . . .	.89	1.14	1.2
Oilcake and meal	4.87	4.34	4.5
Cotton, including linters . . . . .	.77	1.03	1.0
Tobacco . . . . .	.27	.30	.3
Fresh fruit	1.37	1.35	1.4
Animal fats	1.03	1.38	1.3
Total ²	106.67	102.24	111.1

¹ Forecast. ² Totals may not add due to rounding.

VALUE OF U.S. AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS¹

Region	Fiscal year		
	1976	1977	1978 ²
	\$ Bil.		
Western Europe	7.21	8.61	7.0
European Community	5.69	6.83	5.4
Other Western Europe	1.52	1.78	1.6
Eastern Europe	1.29	.98	1.1
USSR	2.05	1.09	1.4
Asia	7.43	8.13	7.8
West Asia . . . . .	.82	1.10	1.2
South Asia	1.14	.68	.5
Southeast and East Asia (excl. Japan and PRC)	2.07	2.47	2.5
Japan	3.41	3.88	3.4
PRC	(³)	(³)	.2
Canada	1.43	1.59	1.5
North Africa . . . . .	.70	.78	.9
Other Africa . . . . .	.44	.57	.6
Latin America	2.09	2.13	2.1
Oceania . . . . .	.12	.15	.1
Total ⁴	22.76	24.01	22.5

¹ Adjusted for transshipments through Canada and Western Europe. ² Forecast. ³ Less than \$50 million. ⁴ Totals may not add due to rounding.

On the other hand, U.S. agricultural exports to the Soviet Union are expected to increase to about \$1.4 billion in fiscal 1978, up from \$1.1 billion last year. Through late February, sales made for delivery during the second year of the U.S.-USSR grain purchase agreement totaled about 3.4 million tons of wheat and 7.7 million tons of corn.

Exports of wheat and feed grains to the USSR this fiscal year may reach about 15 million tons, including about 5 million of wheat, 10 million of corn, and 75,000 of rice. The Soviets recently purchased 200,000 tons of U.S. soybeans, and additional sales are possible. However, uncertainty remains about the final amount of U.S. grain and soybeans the USSR might take. *Dewain Rahe, (202) 447-8260*

Palm Oil Imports Trailing Last Season

More competitive prices for soybean oil are likely to cut U.S. palm oil imports during 1977/78 to around 600 million pounds, down roughly a tenth from last year. This is likely even though Malaysia is expected to significantly expand production later this year.

So far, prices for palm oil, at about 22 cents per pound, are averaging about a cent above soybean oil. Without any substantial price discount for palm oil and with larger U.S. soybean oil supplies, there is less incentive to import.

Domestic disappearance of palm oil may total around 575 million pounds, down from the 611 million of last season, as palm oil competes with larger domestic supplies of soybean oil, cottonseed oil, and sunflower-seed oil.

Last season, palm oil prices (c.i.f. U.S. ports, bulk) averaged about 24 cents per pound. Unless some significant change in prices occurs in coming months, 1977/78 prices may average a little below that level. *Stanley A. Gazelle, (202) 447-8444*

Agricultural Trade Balance To Narrow

Continued high prices for noncompetitive commodities—particularly tropical products—will be primarily responsible for boosting the value of U.S. agricultural imports to about \$13.5 billion in fiscal 1978, slightly above the fiscal 1977 level. Slight value declines are anticipated for coffee and tea imports, but these will be offset by a sharp value increase for cocoa products due to high cocoa bean prices.

With the likely decline in export value and rise in import value, the U.S. agricultural trade surplus may decline to around \$9 billion in fiscal 1978. This would compare with a surplus of \$10.6 billion last year and an average of slightly over \$12 billion in 1974-76.

World Economic Growth Remains Sluggish

The slow economic recovery in the major developed nations is providing little stimulus to the demand for U.S. agricultural products. The economies of most developed countries are expected to grow at about the same pace as in 1977—around 4 percent—although growth rates in Japan, France, and Canada may improve. Inflation rates may be slightly lower in 1978, but only limited success is expected in reducing unemployment in most of these nations.

In the developing countries, inflation may take a turn for the worse. In addition, with the recent declines in prices for many of their export products, these nations will generally have to contend with rising trade deficits.

Total world trade will likely continue to grow moderately in 1978 as it did in 1977. The U.S. trade deficit is expected to remain high, while West Germany and Japan will continue to benefit from large trade surpluses. *Dewain Rahe, (202) 447-8260*

March Situation Report Schedule . . .

Situation reports which will be released by USDA's World Food and Agricultural Outlook and Situation Board this month are:

Title	Off Press
Poultry & Egg	March 7
Fruit	March 9
Dairy	March 13
Tobacco	March 15
Livestock and Meat	March 21
Rice	March 29

Single copies of the above reports may be obtained by writing to: ESCS Publications, Room 0054 South Building, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.



Recent Publications

Below is a list of selected USDA publications, listed by subject area, which may be of interest to our readers. To order reports you will need to write directly to the issuing agency (indicated in parentheses after each report citation) at the address listed below. Be sure when ordering to list the publication number and provide your zipcode.

ESCS Reports:

The publication order form provided on the inside back cover shows the publication numbers for ESCS reports listed below. Simply circle those you would like to receive and mail to ESCS Publications, Room 0054 South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

FAS Reports:

FAS Information, Room 5918 South, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

State Reports:

Publications issued by a State Crop and Livestock Reporting Service may be obtained by writing the address shown in parentheses. No copies are available from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

New report listings, by subject matter:

Coffee

Slight Downward Adjustment in 1977/78 World Coffee Production Estimate. FCOF 1-78 (FAS).

Cotton

U.S. Cotton Exports Make Comeback In November. FC-3-78 (FAS).
1976/77 World Cotton Trade Dips, But U.S. Exports Expand Sharply. FC 1-78 (FAS).

Grains

Turkey's Record Wheat Production Leads to Exports. FG 1-78 (FAS).
U.S. Barley Industry. AER-395 (ESCS).

Livestock and Meat

First Quarterly Outlook for World Meat Production and Trade in 1978. FLM 1-78 (FAS).
U.S. Livestock Product Exports Exceed Imports in November. FLM-MT 1-78 (FAS).

Nuts

World Walnut Output Dropped In 1977; 1977/78 Exports Expected To Decline. FN 1-78 (FAS).

Oilseeds and Products

Record World Soybean Production and Exports Anticipated in 1977/78. FOP 1-78 (FAS).
World Fats and Oils Output To Recover Sharply in 1978. FOP 25-77 (FAS).
World Oilseed Meal Production To Reach Record High in 1978. FOP 24-77 (FAS).

Tobacco

World Tobacco Output Declined 3 Percent in 1977; Stock Drawdown Seen in 1978. FT 8-77 (FAS).

Vegetables

Record Exports of Great Northern Beans in 1976/77—Peas and Lentils Down But Value Up. FDP 1-78 (FAS).

Miscellaneous

International Food Policy Issues, A Proceedings. FAER-143 (ESCS).
Jute-Kenaf Output Up in 1977/78, India's Supply Situation Tight. FVF 3-77 (FAS).

State Reports

1977 Iowa Agricultural Statistics (1977). Iowa Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, Federal Building, Room 855, 210 Walnut Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50309.

California Annual Vegetable Summary. 1977 preliminary (1977). California Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, P.O. Box 1258, Sacramento, California 95806.

Cost-Size Relationships for Large-Scale Dairies with Emphasis on Waste Management. Giannini Foundation Research Report No. 324 (October, 1977). Division of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of California, Davis, California 95616.

The Demand for Commercial Fertilizers in California Projected to 1985. Information Series No. 77-5 (Bulletin 1886), Division of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of California, Davis, California 95616.

Water Quality Versus Production: The Case of the Dairy Industry in the Santa Ana River Basin. Information Series No. 77-4 (Bulletin 1885), Division of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of California, Davis, California 95616.

Statistical Indicators

Farm Income

Gross and net farm income¹

	Annual			1975			1976				1977 ⁴			
	1975	1976	1977	I	II	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
	\$ Bil.													
Cash receipts from farm marketings	88.1	94.3	95.0	89.5	94.1	89.0	93.0	100.4	91.5	92.4	96.7	97.1	90.4	95.9
Livestock and products	43.0	46.4	47.4	43.1	45.3	46.7	46.3	48.3	45.5	45.4	46.2	46.8	47.8	48.9
Crops	45.1	47.9	47.6	46.4	48.8	42.3	46.7	52.1	46.0	47.0	50.5	50.3	42.6	47.0
Nonmoney and other farm income ²	8.6	9.3	11.1	8.4	9.2	9.1	9.1	9.2	9.4	9.5	9.8	10.1	10.4	14.1
Realized gross farm income	96.7	103.6	106.1	97.9	103.4	98.1	102.1	109.6	100.9	101.9	106.5	107.2	100.8	110.0
Farm production expenses	75.9	81.7	85.7	75.7	78.8	76.7	79.1	84.2	82.3	81.2	84.5	86.5	83.3	88.5
Farmers' realized net income	20.8	21.9	20.4	22.2	24.6	21.4	23.0	25.4	18.6	20.7	22.0	20.7	17.5	21.5
Net change in farm inventories	3.5	-1.9	.9	1.5	2.9	5.5	-1.5	-2.2	-1.0	-2.7	-.5	.5	.0	3.5
Farmers' total net income														
Current prices	24.3	20.0	21.3	23.7	27.5	26.9	21.5	23.2	17.6	18.0	21.5	21.2	17.5	25.0
1967 prices ³	14.6	11.4	11.3	14.5	16.3	15.7	12.5	13.3	9.9	10.0	11.7	11.3	9.2	13.0

¹ Quarterly data are seasonally adjusted at annual rates. ² Includes government payments to farmers, value of farm products consumed in farm households, rental value of farm dwellings, and income from recreation, machine hire, and custom work. ³ Deflated by the index of prices paid by farmers for family living items on a 1967 base. In 1977 movement is based on the overall change in the consumer price index. ⁴ Data for 1977 has been updated based on more complete information. These preliminary estimates are subject to revision in July 1978.

Cash receipts from farming

	Annual	1977											
	1977	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
	\$ Mil.												
Farm marketings and CCC loans ¹	95,025	7,950	6,825	7,110	6,788	6,459	6,715	6,981	7,603	8,304	10,968	10,469	8,853
Livestock and products	47,453	3,615	3,646	3,951	3,792	4,004	3,887	3,783	4,013	4,068	4,453	4,113	4,128
Meat animals	27,909	2,064	2,181	2,309	2,161	2,326	2,202	2,095	2,331	2,420	2,812	2,528	2,480
Dairy products	11,782	943	880	982	996	1,042	1,021	1,006	995	972	979	959	1,007
Poultry and eggs	7,207	565	544	620	584	582	614	633	641	634	619	587	584
Other	555	43	41	40	51	54	50	49	46	42	43	39	57
Crops	47,572	4,335	3,179	3,159	2,996	2,455	2,828	3,198	3,590	4,236	6,515	6,356	4,725
Food grains	5,886	475	353	304	273	312	687	946	821	694	557	240	224
Feed crops	12,257	1,305	895	865	677	653	810	849	815	802	1,411	1,909	1,266
Cotton (lint and seed)	3,961	455	208	122	159	50	28	36	137	196	654	861	1,055
Tobacco	2,331	212	65	107	33	13	5	78	464	424	286	360	284
Oil-bearing crops	9,197	1,076	880	849	834	418	208	117	188	567	1,950	1,452	659
Vegetables and melons	5,528	329	302	343	374	441	482	492	575	782	751	372	285
Fruits and tree nuts	4,271	202	217	242	264	262	395	405	331	415	504	552	483
Other	4,141	283	259	327	382	306	213	275	259	356	402	610	469
Government payments	1,864	103	110	123	71	38	32	31	48	88	86	104	1,030
Total cash receipts ²	96,889	8,053	6,935	7,233	6,859	9,497	3,747	7,012	7,651	8,392	11,054	10,573	9,883

¹ Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month. ² May not add due to rounding.

Farm marketing indexes (physical volume)

	Annual	1977											
	1977	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
		1967=100											
All commodities	124	121	104	106	99	96	107	112	124	131	176	169	139
Livestock and products	113	107	106	114	109	113	112	106	113	115	129	120	116
Crops	138	141	101	94	86	73	100	121	138	153	243	238	172

Cash receipts¹ from farm marketings, by States, January-December

	Livestock and Products		Crops ²		Total ³	
	1976	1977	1976	1977	1976	1977
	\$ Mil. ³					
NORTH ATLANTIC						
Maine	268.1	271.0	175.0	152.4	443.1	423.4
New Hampshire	57.7	59.6	21.6	22.2	79.3	81.8
Vermont	244.8	245.0	18.5	32.1	263.3	277.0
Massachusetts	114.2	113.9	100.6	106.2	214.7	220.1
Rhode Island	13.0	13.5	15.1	15.4	28.0	28.9
Connecticut	137.3	131.2	93.7	101.2	231.0	232.4
New York	1,223.6	1,208.0	474.8	506.5	1,698.4	1,714.4
New Jersey	109.6	104.1	224.7	239.7	334.3	343.8
Pennsylvania	1,300.4	1,331.8	500.1	531.3	1,800.5	1,863.1
NORTH CENTRAL						
Ohio	1,163.9	1,167.3	1,617.9	1,646.4	2,781.8	2,813.6
Indiana	1,334.8	1,348.6	1,996.0	2,004.7	3,330.8	3,353.2
Illinois	1,866.9	1,894.5	4,244.0	3,879.9	6,110.9	5,774.4
Michigan	815.8	820.4	884.8	939.6	1,700.6	1,760.0
Wisconsin	2,486.9	2,577.2	541.8	554.6	3,028.6	3,131.9
Minnesota	2,181.6	2,217.7	1,720.9	1,923.2	3,902.5	4,141.0
Iowa	4,041.9	4,099.3	2,967.8	2,842.2	7,009.7	6,941.5
Missouri	1,577.7	1,601.7	1,053.0	1,169.9	2,630.8	2,771.6
North Dakota	484.4	503.7	1,171.5	923.9	1,655.9	1,427.6
South Dakota	1,417.1	1,470.7	372.5	493.9	1,789.6	1,964.6
Nebraska	2,176.9	2,264.7	1,690.7	1,740.1	3,867.6	4,004.8
Kansas	1,917.2	1,924.3	1,614.4	1,586.5	3,531.6	3,510.8
SOUTHERN						
Delaware	182.8	179.2	98.8	81.4	281.6	260.6
Maryland	428.3	438.0	255.1	223.2	683.4	661.2
Virginia	555.0	584.5	482.1	446.1	1,037.1	1,030.6
West Virginia	103.4	106.1	37.2	43.1	140.6	149.1
North Carolina	1,073.1	1,110.0	1,748.5	1,526.5	2,821.6	2,636.5
South Carolina	285.5	284.7	553.9	510.2	839.4	794.9
Georgia	1,165.7	1,194.4	1,103.3	974.3	2,269.0	2,168.8
Florida	692.7	710.0	1,840.1	1,795.7	2,532.8	2,505.8
Kentucky	729.6	747.7	896.5	1,081.9	1,626.1	1,829.6
Tennessee	675.4	695.6	635.2	689.3	1,310.5	1,384.9
Alabama	993.2	1,007.5	624.7	555.3	1,617.9	1,562.8
Mississippi	682.2	716.2	989.6	896.6	1,671.8	1,612.7
Arkansas	1,059.0	1,106.4	1,237.0	1,282.2	2,296.0	2,388.5
Louisiana	405.5	414.6	868.4	826.0	1,273.9	1,240.6
Oklahoma	1,248.8	1,318.0	663.1	769.1	1,911.9	2,087.1
Texas	3,189.2	3,209.7	3,109.2	3,397.3	6,298.4	6,607.0
WESTERN						
Montana	453.4	507.7	543.6	414.1	997.0	921.8
Idaho	455.1	463.9	793.3	661.0	1,248.4	1,124.9
Wyoming	303.3	322.3	82.8	58.7	386.1	381.0
Colorado	1,446.0	1,473.1	530.6	516.2	1,976.6	1,989.3
New Mexico	518.4	549.0	193.9	210.5	712.3	759.5
Arizona	541.1	567.1	699.0	694.1	1,240.1	1,261.3
Utah	262.2	268.7	97.1	89.3	359.3	358.1
Nevada	107.5	115.1	42.3	48.7	149.8	163.8
Washington	523.1	534.1	1,231.2	1,146.9	1,754.3	1,681.0
Oregon	355.8	359.6	666.7	644.8	1,022.5	1,004.4
California	2,953.2	3,033.0	6,148.7	6,309.3	9,101.9	9,342.3
Alaska	4.1	4.1	5.2	5.7	9.3	9.8
Hawaii	62.4	64.1	260.8	263.0	323.3	327.0
UNITED STATES						
Grand Total	46,388.6	47,452.7	47,937.2	47,572.2	94,325.8	95,024.9

¹ Estimates as of the first of current month. ² Sales of farm products include receipts from loans repaid minus value of redemptions during the period. ³ Rounded data may not add.

Farm Prices: Received and Paid

Indexes of prices received and paid by farmers, U.S. average

	Annual			1977						1978
	1975	1976	1977	Jan	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Janp
	1967=100									
Prices Received										
All farm products	185	186	183	183	175	174	178	179	181	185
All crops	201	197	193	198	173	171	178	185	183	186
Food grains	242	201	156	160	147	149	160	173	176	179
Feed grains and hay	230	218	182	207	149	147	152	167	172	172
Feed grains	232	214	174	201	140	138	145	162	167	167
Cotton	183	265	270	277	271	263	236	228	213	213
Tobacco	162	164	176	173	176	194	177	185	183	185
Oil-bearing crops ¹	197	205	243	245	199	188	193	202	204	203
Fruit	138	132	161	119	169	176	222	195	185	182
Fresh market ²	137	131	160	110	170	179	234	202	190	186
Commercial vegetables	162	161	179	203	155	159	168	186	155	186
Fresh market	173	173	198	235	162	168	183	210	163	206
Potatoes ²	214	201	199	169	220	171	177	187	184	184
Livestock and products	172	177	175	170	177	177	177	174	180	185
Meat animals	169	170	168	158	173	170	171	165	174	183
Dairy products	175	192	193	192	193	199	203	203	205	203
Poultry and eggs	179	178	174	183	170	173	163	165	167	166
Prices Paid										
Commodities and services,										
interest, taxes, and wage rates	180	191	202	198	201	201	201	202	203	208
Production items	182	193	200	196	198	197	198	199	199	203
Feed	187	191	186	197	170	164	164	172	177	178
Feeder livestock	134	154	158	142	162	161	164	157	158	170
Interest payable per acre on farm real estate debt	281	303	331	331	331	331	331	331	331	384
Taxes on farm real estate	162	176	195	195	195	195	195	195	195	210
Wage rates (seasonally adjusted)	192	210	226	229	231	231	220	220	220	220
Production items, interest, taxes, and wage rates	187	198	208	205	207	206	206	206	207	213
Prices received (1910-14=100)	463	465	457	457	437	434	444	448	452	462
Prices paid, etc. (Parity index) (1910-14=100)	614	653	687	673	686	685	684	688	690	706
Parity ratio ³	76	71	67	68	64	63	65	65	66	65

¹ Fresh market for noncitrus and fresh market and processing for citrus. ² Includes sweetpotatoes and dry edible beans. ³ Ratio of index of prices received to index of prices paid, interest, taxes and wage rates. p. preliminary.

Prices received by farmers, U.S. average

	Annual *			1977						1978
	1975	1976	1977p	Jan	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Crops										
All wheat (\$/bu.) ¹	3.68	3.15	2.29	2.43	2.13	2.16	2.30	2.46	2.47	2.54p
Rice, rough (\$/cwt.)	10.12	6.90	7.91	6.79	8.02	9.13	8.92	10.20	11.00	10.70p
Corn (\$/bu.)	2.70	2.49	2.03	2.34	1.63	1.60	1.67	1.88	1.96	1.96p
Sorghum (\$/cwt.)	4.31	4.01	3.12	3.59	2.63	2.52	2.80	3.03	3.05	3.07p
All hay, baled (\$/ton)	51.40	58.00	57.10	60.90	52.50	50.00	48.20	48.40	49.50	50.50p
Soybeans (\$/bu.)	5.24	5.58	6.82	6.81	5.48	5.17	5.28	5.61	5.69	5.63p
Cotton, Upland (cts./lb.)	41.2	59.9	60.3	62.7	58.3	59.1	53.1	51.4	47.9	47.8p
Potatoes (\$/cwt.)	4.04	4.15	3.82	3.44	4.44	3.50	3.16	3.15	3.01	3.21
Dry edible beans (\$/cwt.)	20.30	16.40	17.60	14.10	16.20	13.80	22.20	24.10	22.80	21.60
Apples for fresh use (cts./lb.)	10.6	10.1	12.3	11.1	12.7	13.3	12.7	12.4	12.8	12.6
Pears for fresh use (\$/ton)	¹ 169	178	146	140	116	181	197	185	207	195
Oranges, all uses (\$/box) ²	1.80	1.69	2.67	.91	2.92	3.08	5.26	4.27	3.70	3.71
Grapefruit, all uses (\$/box) ²	1.78	1.42	1.63	1.07	2.12	2.06	2.94	1.73	1.84	1.27
Livestock										
Beef cattle (\$/cwt.)	32.20	33.90	34.50	32.30	34.70	34.80	35.40	34.60	35.70	37.20
Calves (\$/cwt.)	26.90	34.50	36.90	33.70	37.10	38.30	37.60	37.00	37.80	40.80
Hogs (\$/cwt.)	47.60	43.00	40.00	38.00	42.80	40.20	39.90	37.50	41.50	43.90
Lambs (\$/cwt.)	42.10	47.60	51.30	48.50	49.00	51.20	52.10	52.20	56.00	61.00
All milk, sold to plants (\$/cwt.)	8.78	9.66	9.72	9.65	9.69	10.00	10.20	10.20	10.30	10.20p
Milk, manuf. grade (\$/cwt.)	7.71	8.56	8.71	8.48	8.64	8.83	8.99	9.10	9.16	9.12p
Broilers (cts./lb.)	26.2	23.1	23.5	21.5	23.9	24.0	23.1	21.0	20.2	22.8
Eggs (cts./doz.) ³	52.8	58.8	54.0	65.1	51.5	52.6	47.3	51.3	53.6	49.4
Turkeys (cts./lb.)	33.6	31.8	34.8	32.4	33.7	34.3	36.5	38.7	40.3	38.0
Wool (cts./lb.) ⁴	44.3	65.1	73.2	75.1	71.6	71.0	73.7	70.9	72.1	72.9

¹ Eleven month average. ² Equivalent on-tree returns. ³ Average of all eggs sold by farmers, including hatching eggs and eggs sold at retail. ⁴ Average local market price, excluding incentive payments. p Preliminary. * Calendar year averages.

Wholesale and Retail Prices

Wholesale Price Index, U.S. average (not seasonally adjusted)

	Annual			1977						1978
	1975	1976	1977*	Jan	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
1967=100										
All commodities	174.9	183.0	194.2	188.1	194.6	195.3	196.3	197.0	198.2	199.9
Industrial commodities	171.5	182.4	195.1	188.4	196.9	197.8	199.1	199.2	200.0	201.5
All foods ¹	186.0	178.9	186.8	179.2	187.3	186.8	187.1	188.1	190.5	193.3
Farm products and processed foods and feeds	184.2	183.1	188.8	184.8	184.2	183.9	184.2	186.8	189.5	192.1
Farm products	186.7	191.0	192.5	193.5	181.2	181.9	182.4	185.5	188.3	192.2
Fruits and vegetables ²	183.7	178.4	192.2	198.5	176.4	182.8	187.9	192.9	170.1	197.1
Grains	223.9	205.9	165.3	184.9	142.5	144.2	144.7	164.6	167.3	169.1
Livestock	187.8	173.3	173.0	166.0	175.2	172.9	177.5	171.6	182.7	188.2
Poultry, live	189.8	166.9	175.4	153.7	176.1	181.7	170.5	162.7	157.8	170.2
Fibers, plant and animal	153.1	223.9	202.3	216.5	180.3	165.8	166.9	164.1	161.0	171.0
Milk	180.2	201.2	202.6	200.2	202.7	206.7	209.6	209.8	210.1	208.4
Eggs	159.8	179.1	162.0	189.2	162.0	163.3	137.6	149.4	166.3	145.2
Oilseeds	198.5	204.4	236.8	241.2	202.2	175.6	181.6	202.3	204.2	206.1
Processed foods and feeds	182.6	178.0	186.1	179.3	185.1	184.2	184.5	186.7	189.3	191.3
Meats	188.7	173.6	170.7	165.4	172.8	171.4	175.7	174.7	183.6	185.9
Beef and veal	176.3	156.0	157.5	153.3	158.9	156.5	163.8	163.5	168.5	171.0
Pork	214.7	201.4	190.1	186.3	193.5	191.7	195.5	189.4	207.0	206.3
Poultry	184.1	166.2	173.3	154.8	174.2	178.6	170.1	163.0	160.0	169.1
Fish	218.7	272.4	294.3	305.4	281.8	288.7	283.6	287.2	294.8	293.5
Dairy	155.8	168.5	173.4	166.8	175.3	175.7	175.9	176.9	178.2	178.0
Processed fruits and vegetables	169.8	170.2	187.3	175.2	190.1	191.2	190.3	193.0	194.4	194.4
Cereal and bakery products	178.0	172.1	173.2	168.4	172.1	172.8	175.4	179.7	182.0	183.6
Sugar and confectionery	254.3	190.9	177.6	171.9	180.2	174.3	170.1	177.8	179.0	185.8
Beverages	162.4	173.5	200.9	184.1	205.5	204.8	204.3	200.6	201.3	201.9
Vegetable oil and products	211.5	174.2	198.7	177.9	199.9	202.0	197.0	192.3	197.4	194.5
Textile products and apparel	139.1	148.2	154.0	150.8	154.4	155.1	155.2	155.3	155.9	156.4
Apparel	133.4	139.9	147.3	145.3	147.4	148.4	148.6	149.1	149.4	149.8
Hides, leather, and related products	148.5	167.8	179.5	175.3	180.5	179.9	179.6	180.3	181.8	186.1
Footwear	147.8	158.9	168.9	164.4	170.4	170.5	171.7	172.0	172.1	173.8
Lumber and wood products	176.8	205.6	236.2	222.8	242.7	252.4	247.3	243.2	249.1	256.3
Tobacco products	149.6	163.0	180.0	174.7	175.8	189.6	189.6	189.6	189.9	190.4

¹ Includes all processed food (except soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, and manufactured animal feeds) plus eggs and fresh and dried fruits and vegetables from farm products group. ² Fresh and dried. *Annual averages computed by USDA from preliminary monthly data reported by BLS; still subject to revision.

Consumer Price Index, U.S. average (not seasonally adjusted)

	Annual			1977						1978
	1975	1976	1977	Jan	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
1967=100										
Consumer price index, all items	161.2	170.5	181.5	175.3	183.3	184.0	184.5	185.4	186.1	186.9
Consumer price index, less food	157.1	167.5	178.4	172.9	179.9	180.9	181.6	182.5	183.1	183.6
All food	175.4	180.8	192.2	183.4	195.2	194.5	194.4	195.6	196.3	198.2
Food away from home	174.3	186.1	200.3	192.2	203.0	203.7	204.6	205.4	206.2	207.2
Food at home	175.8	179.5	190.2	181.2	193.2	192.2	191.7	193.0	193.7	195.9
Meats ¹	177.9	178.2	174.2	169.9	177.4	177.7	176.3	177.5	178.3	182.2
Beef and veal	170.0	164.5	163.6	162.1	164.0	164.1	163.7	166.0	168.0	170.5
Pork	196.9	199.5	188.8	180.1	196.8	197.6	194.2	193.8	191.7	198.4
Poultry	162.4	155.7	156.7	144.5	161.1	160.3	158.5	157.4	153.6	158.0
Fish	203.3	227.3	251.3	238.0	256.7	258.8	260.3	262.4	262.6	265.1
Eggs	157.8	172.4	166.9	197.9	166.2	166.6	154.5	157.9	148.6	168.9
Dairy products ²	156.6	169.3	173.9	171.3	175.1	175.4	176.2	176.5	176.9	177.5
Fats and oils ²	198.6	173.7	191.4	178.8	201.0	200.1	197.8	197.2	196.1	196.3
Fruits and vegetables	171.0	175.4	191.6	177.6	192.1	183.2	184.0	188.7	192.5	191.8
Fresh	166.1	170.2	193.4	174.9	193.4	177.6	178.6	185.0	188.0	185.9
Processed	178.3	183.0	188.8	181.5	190.2	191.5	192.1	194.2	199.2	200.5
Cereals and bakery products	184.8	180.6	183.5	179.9	182.7	184.9	185.6	187.1	189.0	190.8
Sugar and sweets	246.2	218.2	229.4	212.7	232.5	233.2	234.6	236.3	239.7	245.4
Beverages, nonalcoholic	178.9	214.0	322.4	257.6	347.4	346.2	343.2	337.4	334.3	332.4
Apparel commodities less footwear	140.6	144.9	150.6	146.5	151.1	152.6	153.7	155.1	154.5	151.0
Footwear	144.2	149.9	156.9	153.2	157.3	158.1	159.1	159.9	159.6	158.2
Tobacco products	153.9	160.5	168.2	166.4	167.4	170.0	171.7	172.6	173.0	173.4
Beverages, alcoholic	142.1	146.8	150.9	148.8	151.1	151.9	152.3	153.2	153.2	153.9

¹ Beef, veal, lamb, mutton, pork, and processed meat. ² Includes butter. ³ Excludes butter.

Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Farm-retail price spreads

	Annual			1977p						1978p
	1975	1976	1977p	Jan	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Market basket¹:										
Retail cost (1967=100)	173.6	175.4	179.2	174.3	180.8	179.7	179.2	180.9	181.8	184.2
Farm value (1967=100)	187.2	178.4	179.1	172.1	180.7	178.1	178.8	178.5	178.7	185.4
Farm-retail spread (1967=100)	165.0	173.5	179.3	175.7	180.9	180.7	179.4	182.4	183.8	183.4
Farmer's share (%)	42	39	39	38	39	38	39	38	38	39
Beef, choice:										
Retail price ² (cts./lb.)	146.0	138.9	138.3	137.5	139.2	138.9	141.5	141.9	144.8	148.2
Carcass value ³ (cts.)	105.5	88.6	91.0	87.1	90.6	91.3	95.5	95.2	98.6	99.4
Net farm value (cts./2.28 lbs.)	92.9	77.9	79.9	75.1	79.1	80.2	84.4	83.4	86.1	86.6
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	53.1	61.0	58.4	62.4	60.1	58.7	57.1	58.5	58.7	61.6
Carcass-retail spread ⁴ (cts.)	40.5	50.3	47.3	50.4	48.6	47.6	46.0	46.7	46.2	48.8
Farm-carcass spread ⁵ (cts.)	12.6	10.7	11.1	11.5	11.5	11.1	11.1	11.8	12.5	12.8
Farmer's share (%)	64	56	58	55	57	58	60	59	59	58
Pork:										
Retail price ² (cts./lb.)	135.0	134.3	125.4	119.6	130.3	130.8	126.9	127.5	130.6	133.8
Wholesale value ³ (cts.)	103.8	93.6	87.6	85.2	90.0	85.4	88.2	90.6	95.1	91.5
Net farm value (cts./1.97 lbs.)	86.9	78.5	73.8	69.8	79.4	73.7	72.7	70.3	79.0	82.3
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	48.1	55.8	52.0	49.8	50.9	57.1	54.2	57.2	51.6	51.5
Carcass-retail spread ⁴ (cts.)	31.2	40.7	37.8	34.4	40.3	45.4	38.7	36.9	35.5	42.3
Farm-carcass spread ⁵ (cts.)	16.9	15.1	14.2	15.4	10.6	11.7	15.5	20.3	16.1	9.2
Farmer's share (%)	64	58	59	58	61	56	57	55	60	62
Milk, fresh:										
Retail price (cts./½ gal.)	78.5	82.8	83.9	83.5	84.2	84.1	84.5	84.6	84.6	84.5
Farm value (cts./4.39 lbs. Class I)	41.2	46.2	45.8	45.0	47.0	47.2	46.8	46.8	46.7	46.5
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	37.3	36.6	38.1	38.5	37.2	36.9	37.7	37.8	37.9	38.0
Farmer's share (%)	52	56	55	54	56	56	55	55	55	55
Chicken, frying:										
Retail price (cts./lb.)	63.2	59.7	60.1	54.7	62.1	61.5	60.4	59.8	57.7	59.8
Farm value (cts./1.41 lbs. broilers)	37.0	32.6	33.0	27.9	34.4	35.5	33.0	30.2	27.9	31.2
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	26.2	27.1	27.1	26.8	27.7	26.0	27.4	29.6	29.8	28.6
Farmer's share (%)	59	55	55	51	55	58	55	51	48	52
Eggs, large grade A										
Retail price (cts./doz.)	77.0	84.9	82.3	98.6	82.0	81.7	76.1	77.6	72.5	82.7
Farm value (cts./1.03 doz.)	50.8	58.0	53.8	66.8	54.8	54.8	47.8	51.2	44.3	54.0
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	26.2	26.9	28.5	31.8	27.2	26.9	28.3	25.4	28.2	28.7
Farmer's share (%)	66	68	65	68	67	67	63	67	61	65
Bread, white:										
Retail price (cts./lb.)	36.0	35.3	35.5	35.4	35.6	35.7	35.5	35.4	35.9	35.0
Farm value (cts./0.867 lb. wheat)	4.5	3.8	2.6	2.7	2.5	2.6	2.8	2.8	2.8	3.0
Farm value (cts. for all farm ingredients)	6.8	5.6	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.8
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	29.2	29.7	31.0	31.0	31.3	31.3	30.9	30.8	31.2	30.2
Farmer's share (%)	19	16	13	12	12	12	13	13	13	14
Lettuce:										
Retail price (cts./head)	41.7	47.7	47.6	46.8	43.6	51.6	53.6	49.5	56.8	50.6
Farm value (cts./1.88 lbs.)	13.8	17.1	15.0	20.9	11.4	15.9	21.3	22.8	13.9	19.8
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	27.9	30.6	32.6	25.9	32.2	35.7	32.3	26.7	42.9	30.8
Farmer's share (%)	33	36	32	45	26	31	40	46	24	39
Potatoes:										
Retail price (cts./10 lbs.)	134.4	145.8	149.7	120.9	161.6	136.2	129.2	131.6	132.2	129.0
Farm value (cts./10.42 lbs.)	42.2	43.2	41.2	35.4	47.5	36.3	32.5	33.4	33.0	33.4
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	92.2	102.6	108.5	85.5	114.1	99.9	96.7	98.2	99.2	95.6
Farmer's share (%)	31	30	28	29	29	27	25	25	25	26
Tomatoes:										
Retail price (cts./lb.)	57.9	57.6	67.8	62.4	64.7	58.4	59.6	63.1	72.7	72.1
Farm value (cts./1.18 lbs.)	23.8	23.8	28.2	26.8	25.3	24.6	21.3	35.6	22.1	27.8
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	34.1	33.8	39.6	35.6	39.4	33.8	38.3	27.5	50.6	44.3
Farmer's share (%)	41	41	42	43	39	42	36	56	30	39
Orange juice, frozen concentrate:										
Retail price (cts./6-oz. can)	28.2	28.7	34.6	28.0	35.1	37.0	38.4	39.2	41.2	42.2
Farm value (cts./3.08 lbs.)	8.6	10.7	10.5	10.1	11.3	11.3	11.3	11.3	11.3	13.2
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	19.6	18.0	24.1	17.9	23.8	25.7	27.1	27.9	29.9	29.0
Farmer's share (%)	30	37	30	36	32	31	29	29	27	31
Margarine:										
Retail price (cts./lb.)	62.9	52.5	57.2	53.0	60.8	61.0	59.6	59.6	58.8	58.6
Farm value (cts. for veg. oil and NFDM)	21.1	16.6	20.5	16.2	19.7	16.1	17.8	16.6	19.2	17.8
Farm-retail spread (cts.)	41.8	35.9	36.7	36.8	41.1	44.9	41.8	42.0	39.6	40.8
Farmer's share (%)	34	32	36	31	32	26	30	28	33	30

¹ For a market basket of U.S. farm foods representing the average quantities purchased annually per household in 1960-61. Retail prices are from Bureau of Labor Statistics unless otherwise noted. The farm value is the payment to farmers for quantity of farm product equivalent to retail unit, less allowance for byproduct. Farm values are based on prices at first point of sale and may include marketing charges such as grading and packing for some commodities. The farm-retail spread, the difference between the retail price and the farm value, represents charges for assembling, processing, transporting, and distributing these foods. ² Composite monthly average. Prices of all cuts adjusted for volume sold at special prices derived from 8LS and food chain prices. ³ For a quantity equivalent to 1 lb. retail cuts: Beef, 1.41 lb. of carcass beef (yield grade 3); pork, 1.07 lb. of wholesale cuts. ⁴ Represents charges for retailing and other marketing services such as fabricating, wholesaling, and in-city transportation. ⁵ Represents charges made for livestock marketing, processing, and transportation to city where consumed. p Preliminary.

Farm-retail spreads for selected foods

Commodities in retail units	Annual											
	Retail price (cents)			Farm value (cents)			Farm-retail spread (cents)			Farmer's share (percent)		
	1975	1976	1977 ¹	1975	1976	1977 ¹	1975	1976	1977 ¹	1975	1976	1977 ¹
Beef, Choice (lb.)	146.0	138.9	138.3	92.9	77.9	79.9	53.1	61.0	58.4	64	56	58
Lamb, Choice (lb.)	167.6	185.6	187.0	93.3	101.7	106.1	74.3	83.9	80.9	56	55	57
Pork (lb.)	135.0	134.3	125.4	86.9	78.5	73.4	48.1	55.8	52.0	64	58	59
Butter (lb.)	102.5	126.0	133.1	67.3	81.3	84.2	35.2	44.7	48.9	66	65	63
Cheese, American process (½ lb.)	76.7	85.0	86.0	36.6	41.0	41.4	40.1	44.0	44.6	48	48	48
Ice cream (½ gal.)	121.9	127.6	135.2	42.5	45.6	46.1	79.4	82.0	89.1	35	36	34
Milk, evaporated (14½ oz.)	30.8	34.3	36.3	15.0	16.6	17.1	15.8	17.7	19.2	49	48	47
Milk, fresh:												
Sold in stores (½ gal.)	78.5	82.8	83.9	41.2	46.2	45.8	37.3	36.6	38.1	52	56	55
Chicken, frying (lb.)	63.2	59.7	60.1	37.0	32.6	33.0	26.2	27.1	27.1	59	55	55
Turkey (lb.)	73.2	73.6	72.9	43.0	40.7	44.5	30.2	32.9	28.4	59	55	61
Eggs, large Grade A (doz.)	77.0	84.9	82.3	50.8	58.0	53.8	26.2	26.9	28.5	66	68	65
Bread, white:												
All ingredients (lb.)	36.0	35.3	35.5	6.8	5.6	4.5	29.2	29.7	31.0	19	16	13
Wheat (lb.)	—	—	—	4.5	3.8	2.6	—	—	—	12	11	7
Bread, whole wheat (lb.)	57.1	57.8	59.8	5.9	5.1	4.3	51.2	52.7	55.5	10	9	7
Cookies, sandwich (lb.)	93.9	95.5	104.1	14.1	10.3	10.4	79.8	85.2	93.7	15	11	10
Corn flakes (12 oz.)	51.9	51.4	55.6	4.5	4.3	3.5	47.4	47.1	52.1	9	8	6
Flour, white (5 lb.)	99.2	92.5	84.6	36.0	29.9	21.3	63.2	62.6	63.3	36	32	25
Rice, long grain (lb.)	47.1	43.2	40.0	14.8	10.2	11.5	32.3	33.0	28.5	31	23	29
Apples (lb.)	34.2	33.1	39.0	12.0	10.5	12.8	22.2	22.6	26.2	35	32	33
Grapefruit (ea.)	21.8	21.5	23.3	4.5	4.2	4.8	17.3	17.3	18.5	21	20	21
Lemons (lb.)	46.7	44.6	43.4	13.0	9.0	9.2	33.7	35.6	34.2	28	20	21
Oranges (doz.)	115.2	113.7	129.1	25.8	23.8	32.3	89.4	89.4	96.8	22	21	25
Cabbage (lb.)	16.7	16.3	24.6	6.0	5.6	9.8	10.7	10.7	14.8	36	34	40
Carrots (lb.)	26.9	25.5	32.8	9.7	8.2	11.4	17.2	17.3	21.4	36	32	35
Celery (lb.)	26.6	30.4	34.0	8.4	8.7	10.7	18.2	21.7	23.3	32	29	31
Cucumbers (lb.)	39.4	35.3	39.9	13.9	12.5	12.4	25.5	22.8	27.5	35	35	31
Lettuce (head)	41.7	47.7	47.6	13.8	17.1	15.0	27.9	30.6	32.6	33	36	32
Onions (lb.)	24.4	23.0	29.1	10.7	7.5	11.0	13.7	15.5	18.1	44	33	38
Peppers, green (lb.)	60.0	58.5	69.6	23.2	22.6	24.5	36.8	35.9	45.1	39	39	35
Potatoes (10 lb.)	134.4	145.8	149.7	42.2	43.2	41.2	92.2	102.6	108.5	31	30	28
Tomatoes (lb.)	57.9	57.6	67.8	23.8	23.8	28.2	34.1	33.8	39.6	41	41	42
Peaches, canned (no. 2½)	60.2	59.0	61.2	16.9	14.3	12.9	43.3	44.7	48.3	28	24	21
Pears, canned (No. 2½)	74.7	71.4	71.6	19.8	15.4	12.6	54.9	56.0	59.0	27	22	18
Beets, canned (No. 303)	32.8	32.2	34.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	30.4	29.8	32.0	7	7	7
Corn, canned (No. 303)	38.4	35.4	32.8	5.5	5.6	5.2	32.9	29.8	27.6	14	16	16
Peas, canned (No. 303)	39.3	38.6	38.3	7.4	8.0	7.4	31.9	30.6	30.9	19	21	19
Tomatoes, canned (No. 303)	35.1	35.1	37.6	4.9	4.8	4.5	30.2	30.3	33.1	14	14	12
Lemonade, frozen (6-oz. can)	23.0	22.7	23.1	6.6	4.2	2.7	16.4	18.5	20.4	29	19	12
Orange juice, frozen (6-oz. can)	28.2	28.7	34.6	8.6	10.7	10.5	19.6	18.0	24.1	30	37	30
Potatoes, french fried, frozen (9 oz.)	25.6	27.5	28.1	4.7	5.5	4.4	20.9	22.0	23.7	18	20	16
Peas, frozen (10 oz.)	34.8	34.9	37.4	7.1	7.3	6.5	27.7	27.6	30.9	21	21	17
Beans, dried (lb.)	41.7	49.2	42.2	19.6	18.2	17.3	22.1	31.0	24.9	47	37	41
Margarine (lb.)	62.9	52.5	57.2	21.1	16.6	20.5	41.8	35.9	36.7	34	32	36
Peanut butter (12-oz. jar) ²	69.2	70.5	73.4	24.6	25.8	28.9	44.6	44.7	44.5	36	37	39
Salad and cooking oil (24-oz. bottle)	115.6	95.4	107.0	35.0	26.8	39.3	80.6	68.6	67.7	30	28	37
Vegetable shortening (3 lb.)	190.7	153.6	161.7	74.0	56.9	71.0	116.7	96.7	90.7	39	37	44
Sugar (5 lb.)	185.4	120.0	108.1	80.8	46.6	42.5	104.6	73.4	65.6	44	38	39
Spaghetti, canned (15½-oz. can)	26.7	26.9	27.9	4.0	3.6	3.0	22.7	23.3	24.9	15	13	11

¹Preliminary. ²Farm value revised—farm-product equivalent of farmer's stock peanuts changed from 1.35 pounds in 1975 to 1.38 pounds in 1976 and 1.42 pounds in 1977.

Food marketing: Spreads, costs, and profit rates

	Intermediate goods and services ¹					Profit rates after taxes				
	Farm-retail price spread	Total	Containers packaging	Fuel, power, and light	Hourly earnings ²	Interest rate ³	Food retailers ⁴		Food manufacturers ⁵	
							Sales	Equity	Sales	Equity
	1967=100				Dollars	Percent				
1970	113.5	113	108	108	3.03	8.48	—	—	2.5	10.8
1971	116.6	120	113	120	3.24	6.32	—	—	2.6	11.0
1972	119.0	126	117	126	3.45	5.82	—	—	2.6	11.2
1973	126.5	134	123	138	3.66	8.30	—	—	2.6	12.8
1974	151.5	159	151	202	3.99	11.28	—	—	2.9	13.9
1975	165.0	180	174	237	4.40	8.65	0.5	6.8	3.2	14.4
1976 ⁶	173.5	193	184	258	4.77	7.52	.8	10.0	3.4	14.9
1977 ⁶	179.3	208	195	310	5.17	—	—	—	—	—
1975										
I	166.1	176	173	231	4.28	9.94	.4	-5.5	2.4	10.7
II	161.9	178	174	237	4.34	8.16	.8	10.5	3.3	15.0
III	163.4	181	174	238	4.43	8.22	.8	9.9	3.7	17.2
IV	168.8	184	176	241	4.55	8.29	.9	11.5	3.2	14.0
1976 ⁶										
I	172.5	186	179	243	4.65	7.54	.7	9.4	3.1	13.3
II	170.8	191	185	252	4.73	7.44	.9	11.6	3.7	16.4
III	174.4	194	185	260	4.81	7.80	.7	8.9	3.9	16.8
IV	176.3	198	187	278	4.90	7.28	.8	10.7	3.1	13.1
1977 ⁶										
I	177.1	202	189	301	5.04	7.48	.8	10.6	2.7	11.4
II	178.7	207	195	306	5.12	7.37	.9	11.5	3.5	15.0
III	180.5	211	197	315	5.19	7.87	.6	7.5	3.1	13.1
IV	180.8	213	199	317	5.32	—	—	—	—	—

¹ Represents all goods purchased by food marketing firms except raw materials and plant and equipment, and all services except those performed by employees, calculated from wholesale price relatives. ² Weighted composite of production employees in food manufacturing and nonsupervisory employees in wholesale and retail trade, calculated from data of the U.S. Department of Labor. ³ Bank rates on short-term business loans in 35 centers, Department of Commerce. Series revised beginning 1977 and is not strictly comparable with earlier data. Revised series is for short-term commercial and industrial loans and is from survey of terms of bank lending. ⁴ Federal Trade Commission. These data are based on reports from all food retailing corporations having more than \$100 million in annual sales, and whose activities are at least 75 percent specialized in supermarket operations. Comparable data not available prior to third quarter 1974. ⁵ "Quarterly Financial Report," Federal Trade Commission. Data represent national aggregate estimates for corporations based upon a sample of company reports. Data since the fourth quarter of 1973 are imperfectly comparable with prior data because of changes in accounting methods. ⁶ Preliminary.

Transportation Data

Rail rates, grain and fruit and vegetable shipments

	Annual			1977						1978
	1975	1976	1977	Jan	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Rail freight rate index ¹										
All products (1969=100)	169.4	186.6	199.1	198.0	198.4	198.5	198.5	198.6	207.7	207.8
Farm Products (1969=100)	165.0	182.7	191.3	190.0	190.6	190.6	191.0	191.0	200.1	200.9
Food Products (1969=100)	168.5	185.1	195.3	194.6	194.6	194.7	194.7	194.8	204.0	204.0
Rail carloadings of grain (thou. cars) ²	22.8	25.5	24.0	22.4	24.6	23.6	26.7	26.6	22.7	21.5
Barge shipments of grain (mil. bu.) ³	23.0	30.4	29.3	20.3	34.8	28.1	32.3	35.3	27.0	25.0
Fresh fruit and vegetable shipments										
Rail (thou. carlots) ^{3, 4}	3.8	3.3	2.0	2.1	1.4	1.7	1.9	1.4	1.6	n.a.
Truck (thou. carlots) ^{3, 4}	13.9	16.0	15.4	13.8	13.6	12.3	13.7	14.5	15.3	n.a.

¹ Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. ² Weekly average; from Association of American Railroads. ³ Weekly average; from Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA. ⁴ Preliminary data for 1977. n.a. Not available.

Food Supply and Use

Civilian per capita consumption of major food commodities (retail weight)¹

	1960	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
	Pounds								
Meats:	134.1	151.4	156.8	153.5	142.6	152.5	145.4	155.3	154.8
Beef	64.3	84.1	83.6	85.9	81.1	86.4	88.9	96.7	93.2
Veal	5.2	2.4	2.2	1.8	1.5	1.9	3.5	3.3	3.2
Lamb and mutton	4.3	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.4	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.5
Pork	60.3	62.0	68.2	62.9	57.6	62.2	51.2	54.6	56.9
Fish (edible weight)	10.3	11.8	11.5	12.5	12.9	12.2	12.2	12.9	12.8
Poultry products:									
Eggs	42.4	39.5	39.9	39.1	37.3	36.6	35.4	34.9	34.5
Chicken (ready-to-cook)	27.8	40.5	40.4	42.0	40.7	41.1	40.3	43.3	44.3
Turkey (ready-to-cook)	6.2	8.0	8.4	9.0	8.5	8.9	8.6	9.2	9.2
Dairy products:									
Cheese	8.3	11.5	12.2	13.2	13.7	14.6	14.5	15.9	16.3
Condensed and evaporated milk	13.7	7.1	6.8	6.3	6.0	5.6	5.0	4.7	3.3
Fluid milk and cream (product weight)	321.0	296.0	296.0	298.0	293.0	288.0	291.1	292.0	289.4
Ice cream (product weight)	18.3	17.7	17.5	17.4	17.5	17.5	18.7	18.1	17.7
Fats and Oils—Total fat content	45.3	53.0	52.2	54.3	54.3	53.2	53.4	56.1	54.4
Butter (actual weight)	7.5	5.3	5.1	4.9	4.8	4.6	4.8	4.4	4.3
Margarine (actual weight)	9.4	11.0	11.1	11.3	11.3	11.3	11.2	12.2	11.6
Lard	7.6	4.7	4.3	3.8	3.4	3.2	4.0	3.6	3.5
Shortening	12.6	17.3	16.8	17.7	17.3	17.0	17.3	18.1	17.5
Other edible fats and oils	11.5	18.2	18.0	19.8	20.8	20.3	20.3	22.0	21.6
Fruits:									
Fresh:	90.0	79.1	78.5	74.7	74.0	76.3	81.3	83.6	82.0
Citrus	32.5	27.9	28.6	26.6	26.7	26.8	28.7	28.6	25.2
Noncitrus	57.5	51.2	49.9	48.1	47.3	49.5	52.6	55.4	56.8
Processed:									
Canned fruit	22.6	23.3	21.9	21.4	21.3	19.6	19.3	19.2	19.2
Canned juice	13.0	14.6	15.9	15.5	15.9	14.7	15.3	15.3	13.7
Frozen (including juices)	9.1	9.8	10.2	10.4	11.2	11.3	12.6	12.2	12.4
Chilled citrus juices	2.1	4.7	4.8	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.7	6.2	5.8
Dried	3.1	2.7	2.6	2.0	2.6	2.5	3.0	2.7	2.6
Vegetables:									
Fresh ³	96.0	91.0	91.9	90.8	92.7	93.6	93.9	94.5	93.1
Canned (excluding potatoes and sweet potatoes)	43.4	51.2	51.2	52.2	54.3	53.3	52.1	52.8	52.8
Frozen (excluding potatoes)	7.0	9.6	9.7	10.0	10.7	10.2	9.7	10.2	9.7
Potatoes ⁴	105.0	115.3	116.6	116.9	114.4	112.3	120.2	114.7	120.7
Sweet potatoes ⁴	6.5	5.2	4.5	4.7	4.7	5.1	5.3	5.3	5.0
Grains:									
Wheat flour ⁵	118	110	110	109	109	106	107	111	107
Rice	6.1	6.7	7.7	7.0	7.0	7.6	7.7	7.2	7.6
Other:									
Coffee	11.6	10.5	9.9	10.5	10.1	9.5	9.0	9.4	6.9
Tea	.6	.7	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.9
Cocoa	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.5	3.4	3.0	2.6	3.0	2.7
Peanuts (shelled)	4.9	5.9	5.9	6.2	6.6	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.5
Dry edible beans	7.3	5.9	5.9	6.3	6.4	6.7	6.5	6.3	6.0
Melons	23.2	21.2	20.5	19.9	19.7	17.2	17.5	18.6	19.0
Sugar (refined)	97.4	101.8	102.4	102.8	101.5	96.6	90.2	94.7	95.7

¹ Quantity in pounds, retail weight unless otherwise shown. Data on calendar year basis except for dried fruits, fresh citrus fruits, peanuts, and rice which are on a crop-year basis. ² Preliminary. ³ Commercial production for sale as fresh produce. ⁴ Including fresh equivalent of processed. ⁵ White, whole wheat, and semolina flour including use in bakery products.

Note: Historical consumption and supply-utilization data for food may be found in *Food Consumption, Prices, and Expenditures*, Ag. Econ. Report 138 and annual supplements, ERS, USDA.

Per capita food consumption indexes¹

	1960	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977 ²
	1967=100								
Meat, poultry, and fish	89.4	104.9	107.3	107.2	100.9	106.2	102.8	109.7	109.5
Meat	91.9	104.0	107.1	105.2	97.8	104.6	101.0	107.6	107.0
Poultry	75.3	107.1	107.9	112.8	108.8	110.6	108.2	116.1	118.3
Fish	97.0	110.7	107.9	117.5	121.3	114.7	113.9	120.1	119.2
Eggs	104.2	97.0	98.0	96.1	91.6	89.9	87.0	85.7	84.8
Dairy products ³	105.4	98.9	99.0	99.5	99.2	97.4	98.3	99.0	98.1
Fats and oils	95.4	106.6	105.2	109.3	109.8	106.9	107.8	112.6	108.5
Animal	119.2	90.4	90.1	83.9	77.8	76.2	72.6	67.5	68.5
Vegetable	82.2	115.5	113.6	123.3	127.5	123.9	127.2	137.4	132.2
Fruits ⁴	102.9	102.7	103.0	100.4	102.7	102.3	109.2	111.2	109.2
Fresh	112.0	100.6	99.6	94.4	94.4	97.4	104.3	106.8	107.8
Processed	94.8	104.6	106.1	105.8	110.1	106.6	113.5	115.2	110.4
Vegetables ⁵	99.3	101.7	101.7	102.5	105.2	104.2	103.4	105.1	103.8
Fresh	107.6	100.2	100.1	99.9	101.3	101.2	101.5	102.4	101.1
Processed	83.7	104.5	104.8	107.3	112.4	109.8	107.1	110.2	108.9
Potatoes and sweetpotatoes	81.8	114.8	115.8	116.0	116.7	117.7	121.3	114.0	115.1
Fresh	133.8	95.0	91.0	91.7	83.6	80.1	90.8	85.6	93.1
Processed	58.2	123.7	127.1	127.0	131.7	134.9	135.2	126.9	125.2
Beans, peas, and nuts	95.6	98.4	100.0	103.8	104.6	100.4	106.6	104.5	104.6
Cereal products	102.0	97.9	98.6	97.6	97.8	96.0	96.5	99.1	96.1
Sugar	98.1	105.9	106.5	108.4	109.2	106.6	102.9	109.4	111.7
Coffee, tea, and cocoa	100.2	93.7	91.6	97.9	96.7	91.8	90.8	93.3	74.5
Total food	96.4	102.7	103.6	104.0	102.2	102.9	102.0	105.4	104.2
Animal products	95.5	102.2	103.8	103.6	99.2	101.8	99.7	103.9	103.6
Crops ⁶	97.4	103.2	103.3	104.5	105.9	104.1	104.8	107.1	104.8

¹ Civilian consumption only. Quantities of individual foods are combined in terms of 1957-59 retail prices. ² Preliminary. ³ Includes butter. ⁴ Excludes melons and baby food. ⁵ Excludes soup, baby food, dry beans and peas, potatoes, and sweetpotatoes. ⁶ Includes melons, nuts, soup, and baby food in addition to groups shown separately.

Livestock and Products

Livestock and products output and prices

Output	1976				1977					1978	
	II	III	IV	Annual	I	II	III	IV	Annual	I ¹	II ¹
Beef (mil. lb.)	6,145	6,618	6,412	25,667	6,285	6,162	6,320	6,217	24,984	6,200	6,100
Change (pct.) ²	+10	+11	+2	+8	-3	0	-5	-3	-3	-1	-1
Pork (mil. lb.)	2,847	3,014	3,669	12,488	3,293	3,186	3,074	3,499	13,052	3,400	3,500
Change (pct.) ²	-5	+18	+27	+8	+11	+12	+2	-5	+5	+3	+10
Veal (mil. lb.)	178	205	224	813	203	186	206	201	796	160	120
Change (pct.) ²	-2	-12	-9	-2	-1	+4	0	-10	-2	-21	-35
Lamb and mutton (mil. lb.)	82	92	92	361	90	86	84	81	341	85	80
Change (pct.) ²	-15	-12	-6	-10	-5	+5	-9	-12	-6	-6	-7
Red meats (mil. lb.)	9,252	9,929	10,397	39,329	9,871	9,620	9,684	9,998	39,173	9,845	9,800
Change (pct.) ²	+4	+12	+9	+8	+1	+4	-2	-4	0	0	+2
Broilers (mil. lb.)	2,314	2,372	2,186	8,988	2,156	2,399	2,424	2,248	9,227	2,335	2,570
Change (pct.) ²	+12	+14	+10	+13	+2	+4	+2	+2	+3	+8	+7
Turkeys (mil. lb.)	369	710	664	1,950	210	365	672	645	1,892	230	400
Change (pct.) ²	+28	+14	+5	+14	+1	-1	-5	-3	-3	+10	+10
Total meats (mil. lb.)	11,935	13,011	13,247	50,267	12,237	12,384	12,780	12,891	50,292	12,410	12,770
Change (pct.) ²	+6	+13	+9	+9	+2	+4	-2	-3	0	+1	+3
Eggs (mil. doz.)	1,337	1,335	1,353	5,377	1,324	1,335	1,330	1,414	5,403	1,385	1,370
Change (pct.) ²	0	-1	0	0	-1	0	0	+5	0	+5	+3
Milk (bil. lb.)	32.4	30.2	28.5	120.3	29.8	33.1	30.9	29.0	³ 123.0	30.1	33.9
Change (pct.) ²	+4	+6	+4	+4	+2	+2	+3	+2	+2	+1	+2
Total livestock and products (1974=100)	104.6	108.1	107.2	105.5	103.1	107.5	107.5	106.4	106.1	104.5	110.2
Change (pct.) ²	+5.1	+9.1	+6.0	+6.6	+1.1	+2.8	-6	..7	+6	+1.4	+2.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Livestock and products output and prices—Continued

	1976				1977					1978	
	II	III	IV	Annual	I	II	III	IV	Annual	I ¹	II ¹
Prices											
Choice steers, Omaha (\$ per cwt.)	41.42	37.30	39.00	39.11	37.88	40.77	40.47	42.42	40.38	43-45	44-46
Barrows and gilts, 7-markets (\$ per cwt.)	49.19	43.88	34.25	43.11	39.08	40.87	43.85	41.38	41.30	45-47	38-40
Slaughter lambs, choice, San Angelo (\$ per cwt.)	58.63	43.54	45.81	49.87	52.98	55.76	51.88	56.50	54.28	53-55	56-58
Broilers, 9-city wholesale (cts. per lb.) ⁴	41.7	41.5	35.5	40.2	40.9	42.3	42.4	37.6	40.8	40-42	38-40
Turkeys, N.Y., wholesale (cts. per lb.) ⁵	48.2	48.5	49.0	48.8	50.2	51.5	53.1	61.3	54.0	58-60	54-56
Eggs, cartoned, Grade A large, N.Y. (cts. per doz)	63.1	71.8	78.4	70.3	74.9	57.8	61.5	58.9	63.3	59-61	48-50
Milk, all at farm, (\$ per cwt.)	9.26	9.66	9.86	9.66	9.54	9.38	9.73	10.23	9.71	10.05-10.15	9.95-10.05
Livestock prices received by farmers (1967=100)	185	175	165	177	172	174	178	177	175	189	184

¹ Forecast. ² Change from year-earlier. ³ Does not add due to rounding of quarterly data. ⁴ Weighted average. ⁵ 8-16 pound young hens.

Dairy:

	Annual			1977						1978
	1975	1976	1977	Jan	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Milk production:										
Total milk (mil. lb.)	115,334	120,269	122,957	9,914	10,397	9,850	9,844	9,429	9,770	9,988
Milk per cow (lb.)	10,350	10,879	11,194	898	947	898	899	861	893	914
Number of milk cows (thou.)	11,143	11,055	10,984	11,036	10,976	10,972	10,955	10,952	10,939	10,931
Milk prices, Minnesota-Wisconsin:										
3.5% fat (\$/cwt.) ¹	7.62	8.48	8.58	8.19	8.64	8.74	8.74	8.79	8.87	8.91
Price of 16% dairy ration (\$/ton)	134	141	140	147	132	128	125	129	135	136
Milk-feed price ratio (lb.) ²	1.40	1.53	1.60	152	1.69	1.80	1.84	1.75	1.71	1.69
Stocks, beginning										
Total milk equiv. (mil. lb.) ³	5,886	3,844	5,708	5,708	10,385	10,425	9,975	9,354	8,983	8,626
Commercial (mil. lb.)	5,576	3,719	5,299	5,299	6,978	6,710	6,030	5,404	5,187	4,938
Government (mil. lb.)	310	124	410	410	3,407	3,715	3,945	3,950	3,796	3,688
Imports, total milk equiv. (mil. lb.) ³	1,669	1,943	1,961	251	137	162	160	129	390	—
USDA net removals:										
Total milk equiv. (mil. lb.) ³	2,036	1,236	6,092	846.3	521.0	38.6	161.9	118.8	5.9	554.1
Butter:										
Production (mil. lb.)	983.8	978.6	1,093.6	105.6	78.2	75.5	84.9	81.8	89.3	—
Stocks, beginning (mil. lb.)	49.2	10.9	47.1	47.1	208.4	207.7	203.4	198.3	193.7	184.9
Wholesale price, Grade A Chicago (cts./lb.)	79.4	92.0	98.4	90.8	100.7	100.7	100.7	100.9	101.5	100.7
USDA net removals (mil. lb.)	63.4	39.4	222.4	32.4	13.5	.3	7.0	5.4	.1	26.0
Commercial disappearance (mil. lb.)	951.0	919.0	866.3	72.0	72.9	88.7	81.9	74.4	94.5	—
American cheese:										
Production (mil. lb.)	1,654.6	2,062.4	2,035.7	166.8	162.7	142.8	145.2	136.0	157.8	—
Stocks, beginning (mil. lb.)	420.9	307.8	411.4	411.4	528.9	531.9	499.0	454.0	436.1	422.1
Wholesale price, Wisconsin assembly pt. (cts./lb.)	86.6	96.3	96.8	92.6	97.1	98.3	98.3	98.8	100.1	100.1
USDA net removals (mil. lb.)	68.2	38.0	148.3	17.8	24.0	2.9	1.4	.4	.1	148.3
Commercial disappearance (mil. lb.)	1,717.1	1,934.5	1,952.5	149.8	151.3	179.3	195.1	153.8	173.7	—
Other cheese:										
Production (mil. lb.)	1,156.8	1,274.1	1,308.6	98.0	108.8	108.6	109.1	112.5	117.7	—
Stocks, beginning (mil. lb.)	73.1	60.8	67.1	67.1	74.0	73.2	70.8	65.3	61.4	64.0
Commercial disappearance (mil. lb.)	1,331.9	1,460.7	1,507.1	112.0	126.0	127.0	129.2	129.6	156.0	—
Nonfat dry milk:										
Production (mil. lb.)	1,001.5	926.2	1,105.2	71.5	100.6	78.4	71.5	65.9	77.5	—
Stocks, beginning (mil. lb.)	293.2	468.9	480.6	480.6	619.5	653.2	685.9	689.5	673.9	678.1
Wholesale price, avg. manf. (cts./lb.)	63.3	63.5	66.4	62.4	67.9	68.0	68.0	68.0	68.2	—
USDA net removals (mil. lb.)	394.4	157.1	464.3	24.8	62.7	38.3	26.4	22.0	20.3	29.1
Commercial disappearance (mil. lb.)	697.0	724.0	675.8	53.0	57.6	60.9	64.5	53.7	55.9	—
Frozen dessert production (mil. gal.) ⁴	1,183.9	1,152.7	1,153.3	69.9	121.9	105.0	85.4	78.9	73.4	—

¹ Manufacturing grade milk. ² Pounds of ration equal in value to 1 lb. of milk. ³ Milk equivalent, fat-solids basis. ⁴ Ice cream, ice milk, and sherbet.

Meat animals:

	Annual			1977						1978
	1975	1976	1977	Jan	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Cattle on feed (7-States)										
Number on feed (thou. head) ¹	6,369	8,537	8,213	8,213	6,871	6,726	6,958	8,140	8,567	8,927
Placed on feed (thou. head) ²	18,095	18,976	20,817	1,369	1,511	1,829	2,886	2,048	2,067	1,639
Marketings (thou. head)	14,988	18,167	18,720	1,602	1,598	1,530	1,589	1,498	1,605	1,740
Other disappearance (thou. head)	939	1,133	1,383	107	58	67	115	123	102	212
Beef steer-corn price ratio, Omaha (bu.) ³	15.8	15.2	19.9	16.1	24.2	24.2	23.6	20.7	21.1	21.7
Hog-corn price ratio, Omaha (bu.) ³	16.9	16.5	20.2	16.4	26.4	24.1	22.6	19.2	21.4	22.7
Commercial slaughter (thou. head)										
Cattle	40,911	42,654	41,849	3,546	3,751	3,571	3,553	3,541	3,470	3,468
Steers	17,819	18,879	19,336	1,536	1,759	1,589	1,542	1,544	1,562	1,606
Heifers	10,438	12,158	11,747	1,025	1,066	1,086	1,048	945	933	971
Cows	11,557	10,619	9,860	918	840	814	884	974	909	832
Bulls and stags	1,097	998	906	67	86	82	78	78	66	59
Calves	5,209	5,350	5,527	480	485	475	474	473	450	425
Sheep and lambs	7,835	6,714	6,354	513	578	588	545	495	455	438
Hogs	68,687	73,784	77,296	6,127	6,411	6,762	6,768	7,195	6,528	6,240
Commercial production (mil. lb.)										
Beef	23,673	25,667	24,984	2,116	2,229	2,122	2,094	2,079	2,045	2,078
Veal	827	813	796	69	73	71	71	68	63	62
Lamb and mutton	399	361	341	29	29	30	29	27	25	25
Pork	11,586	12,488	13,052	1,024	1,074	1,131	1,150	1,241	1,108	1,051
Market prices				Dol. per 100 pounds						
Slaughter cattle:										
Choice steers, Omaha	44.61	39.11	40.38	38.38	40.11	40.35	42.29	41.83	43.13	43.62
Utility cows, Omaha	21.09	25.31	25.32	22.95	25.38	26.12	24.89	23.80	25.02	27.59
Choice vealers, S. St. Paul	40.44	45.18	48.19	53.12	46.20	41.54	42.50	40.98	40.50	40.50
Feeder cattle:										
Choice, Kansas City, 600-700 lb.	33.91	39.40	40.19	36.49	41.99	40.85	40.82	39.94	41.33	44.07
Slaughter hogs:										
Barrows and gilts, No. 1&2, Omaha ⁴	50.12	44.70	42.10	40.45	44.81	41.71	41.40	40.43	45.38	46.95
Barrows and gilts, 7-markets	48.32	43.11	41.07	39.52	44.38	41.40	40.83	39.33	43.99	45.99
Feeder pigs:										
S. Mo. 40-50 lb. (per head)	44.80	36.54	35.42	23.84	39.84	37.46	34.94	32.32	30.38	35.88
Slaughter sheep and lambs:										
Lambs, Choice, San Angelo	44.45	49.87	54.28	52.00	51.46	53.75	55.69	55.06	58.75	61.44
Ewes, Good, San Angelo	15.34	17.69	19.19	20.75	16.75	19.62	19.69	20.88	25.75	26.19
Feeder lambs										
Choice, San Angelo	41.40	51.28	55.12	53.56	50.75	54.31	55.75	63.19	68.83	67.00
Wholesale meat prices, Midwest ⁵										
Choice steer beef, 600-700 lb.	72.55	60.99	62.69	60.04	62.49	63.04	65.87	65.47	68.10	68.74
Canner and Cutter cow beef	42.90	52.00	51.68	49.66	51.12	50.73	48.46	48.32	51.97	57.64
Pork loins, 8-14 lb.	92.69	86.45	83.04	85.32	85.21	85.52	85.60	76.95	88.70	91.60
Pork bellies, 12-14 lb.	78.52	65.27	54.19	51.62	63.96	55.04	49.15	43.79	51.32	59.37
Hams, skinned, 14-17 lb.	84.06	79.79	76.50	69.15	75.47	75.77	84.62	94.22	92.09	83.00
	Annual			1976		1977				1978
	1975	1976	1977	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I
Cattle on feed (23-States):										
Number on feed (thou. head) ¹	9,622	12,328	11,948	10,054	9,282	11,948	10,619	9,765	9,793	12,809
Placed on feed (thou. head) ²	24,685	25,508	27,657	5,702	8,762	5,614	6,007	6,479	9,557	—
Marketings (thou. head)	20,500	24,170	24,861	6,200	5,684	6,462	6,147	6,159	6,093	—
Other disappearance (thou. head)	1,479	1,718	1,935	274	412	481	714	292	448	—
Hogs and pigs (14-States): ⁶										
Inventory (thou. head) ¹	47,170	41,855	47,120	46,235	48,885	47,120	44,100	46,640	50,000	49,310
Breeding (thou. head) ¹	6,283	6,368	6,788	7,071	6,828	6,788	7,016	7,352	7,307	7,477
Market (thou. head) ¹	40,887	35,487	40,332	39,164	42,057	40,332	37,084	39,288	42,693	41,833
Farrowings (thou. head)	8,417	9,996	10,663	2,524	2,524	2,304	2,893	2,716	2,720	2,602
Pig crop (thou. head)	60,476	72,580	76,119	18,389	17,970	15,586	21,386	19,625	19,522	—

¹ Beginning of period. ² Other disappearance excluded in 1973; not comparable with 1974 and 1975. ³ Bushels of corn equal in value to 100 pounds liveweight. ⁴ 220-240 lb. ⁵ Prior to Oct. 1975, Chicago. ⁶ Quarters are Dec. preceding year-Feb. (I), Mar-May (II), June-Aug (III), and Sept-Nov (IV). ⁷ Intentions.

Poultry and eggs:

	Annual			1977						1978
	1975	1976	1977	Jan	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Eggs										
Farm production (mil.)	64,586	64,517	64,833	5,444	5,354	5,312	5,609	5,548	5,805	5,724
Average number of layers on farms (mil.)	278	274	275	278	271	277	282	285	287	285
Rate of lay (eggs per layer)	233	235	236	19.6	19.8	19.2	19.9	19.4	20.2	20.1
Cartoned price, New York, grade A										
large (cts./doz.) ¹	63.9	70.3	63.3	81.0	61.4	60.8	56.0	56.6	64.0	57.2
Price of laying feed (\$/ton)	147	151	152	156	143	138	135	141	145	147
Egg-feed price ratio (lb.) ²	7.2	7.9	7.1	8.3	7.2	7.6	7.0	7.3	7.4	6.7
Stocks, beginning of period:										
Shell (thou. cases)	36	22	28	28	38	47	49	49	51	39
Frozen (mil. lb.)	54.2	36.3	26.1	26.1	35.1	34.8	33.8	33.1	31.2	29.7
Replacement chicks hatched (mil.)	454	492	500	40.2	37.8	37.1	37.0	34.1	32.1	36.8
Broilers										
Federally inspected slaughter, certified (mil. lb.)	7,966	8,987	9,227	713.8	870.4	808.2	775.5	719.8	753.2	—
Wholesale price, 9-city, (cts./lb.)	45.1	40.2	40.8	38.8	42.0	40.9	39.2	37.3	36.2	40.2
Price of broiler grower feed (\$/ton)	163	168	170	174	164	154	153	159	160	162
Broiler-feed price ratio (lb.) ²	3.2	2.8	2.8	2.5	2.9	3.1	3.0	2.6	2.5	2.8
Stocks, beginning of period (mil. lb.)	37.2	22.3	32.9	32.9	33.1	30.5	31.7	33.5	35.8	30.0
Average weekly placements of broiler chicks, 21 States (mil.)	57.2	58.9	61.5	63.6	63.8	62.1	63.2	63.1	66.2	67.8
Turkeys										
Federally inspected slaughter, certified (mil. lb.)	1,716	1,950	1,892	70.5	244.4	238.2	250.3	246.8	148.2	—
Wholesale price, New York, 8-16 lb. young hens (cts./lb.)	53.6	48.7	54.0	48.9	53.4	55.0	57.4	60.7	65.8	60.5
Price of turkey grower feed (\$/ton)	167	174	184	182	176	172	168	175	177	177
Turkey-feed price ratio (lb.) ²	4.2	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.8	4.0	4.3	4.4	4.6	4.3
Stocks, beginning of period (mil. lb.)	275.0	195.2	203.4	203.4	251.6	327.6	408.4	445.5	269.3	167.6
Poults hatched (mil.)	137.1	149.7	148.7	10.8	8.1	4.5	5.2	5.9	8.5	11.8

¹ Price of cartoned eggs to volume buyers for delivery to retailers. ² Pounds of feed equal in value to 1 dozen eggs or 1 lb. of broiler or turkey liveweight.

Wool:

	Annual			1977						1978
	1974	1975	1976	Jan	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
U.S. wool price, Boston ¹ (cts./lb.)	176	150	182	188	183	182	182	182	182	182
Imported wool price, Boston ² (cts./lb.)	239	202	214	223	220	223	223	228	224	223
U.S. mill consumption, scoured										
Apparel wool (thou. lb.)	74,856	94,117	106,629	8,221	7,448	8,580	7,714	7,000	7,950	n.a.
Carpet wool (thou. lb.)	18,595	15,908	15,117	1,212	1,141	1,149	708	785	1,066	n.a.

¹ Wool price delivered at U.S. mills, clean basis, Graded Territory 64's (20.60-22.04 microns) staple 2½" and up. Prior to January 1976 reported as: Territory fine, good French combing and staple. ² Wool price delivered at U.S. mills, clean basis, Australian 64's, type 78, including duty (25.5 cents). Prior to January 1976 reported as: Australian 64's combing, excluding duty. ³ No quotations reported. n.a. Not available.

Cotton:

	Marketing year ¹			1977						1978
	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77	Jan	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
U.S. Price, SLM, 1-1/16 in. (cts./lb.) ²	41.7	58.0	70.9	67.0	52.5	49.3	49.1	48.0	48.4	56.1
Northern Europe prices:										
Index (cts./lb.) ³	52.5	65.3	81.7	78.7	62.7	60.0	59.2	57.9	59.5	64.1
U.S., SM 1-1/16 in. (cts./lb.) ⁴	56.4	71.4	82.4	78.9	63.6	62.1	61.3	59.6	61.0	64.8
U.S. mill consumption (thou. bales)	5,833.7	7,227.7	6,672.0	524.0	510.2	625.9	528.8	521.5	578.6	—
Exports (thou. bales)	3,925.9	3,311.3	4,783.6	371.6	189.5	209.2	155.2	347.5	519.6	—

¹ Beginning August 1. ² Average spot market. ³ Liverpool Outlook "A" index; average of five lowest priced of 10 selected growths. ⁴ Memphis territory growths.

Crops and Products

Feed grains:

	Marketing year ¹			1977						1978
	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77	Jan	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Wholesale prices:										
Corn, No. 2 yellow, Chicago (\$/bu.)	3.12	2.75	2.30	2.53	1.78	1.80	1.84	2.14	2.19	2.18
Sorghum, No. 2 yellow, Kansas City (\$/cwt.)	5.04	4.46	3.49	3.37	2.73	2.78	3.05	3.40	3.36	3.37
Barley, feed, Minneapolis (\$/bu.)	2.58	2.38	2.34	2.20	1.50	1.58	1.66	1.65	1.70	1.65
Barley, malting, Minneapolis (\$/bu.) ²	4.16	3.52	3.13	3.00	1.92	2.15	2.25	2.36	2.32	2.24
Exports:										
Corn (mil. bu.)	1,149	1,711	1,684	128	122	138	120	144	154	*122
Feed grains (mil. short tons) ³	39.4	55.1	55.8	4.4	4.1	4.6	3.8	4.6	5.3	*4.2

	Marketing year ¹			1976		1977				1978
	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77	June-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-May	June-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
Corn:										
Stocks, beginning (mil. bu.)	484	361	399	1,867	399	4,890	3,293	2,365	884	5,442
Domestic use:										
Feed (mil. bu.)	3,226	3,592	3,587	776	1,158	1,070	550	808	1,257	—
Food, seed, ind. (mil. bu.)	451	490	513	160	121	127	96	169	125	—
Feed grains:⁴										
Stocks, beginning (mil. short tons)	23.7	16.9	19.0	62.9	29.8	163.8	109.2	77.4	47.8	186.7
Domestic use:										
Feed (mil. short tons)	116.1	128.0	124.1	27.4	40.9	36.0	18.3	28.5	43.1	—
Food, seed, ind. (mil. short tons)	17.7	18.8	19.7	6.1	4.4	4.8	4.2	6.3	4.5	—

¹ Beginning October 1 for corn and sorghum; June 1 for oats and barley. ² No. 3 or better, 65% or better plump beginning October 1977. ³ Aggregated data for corn, sorghum, oats and barley. ⁴ Based on inspections for export.

Food grains:

	Marketing year ¹			1977						1978
	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77	Jan	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Wholesale prices:										
Wheat, No. 1 HRW, Kansas City (\$/bu.) ²	4.20	3.74	2.88	2.70	2.31	2.47	2.56	2.81	2.80	2.82
Wheat, DNS, Minneapolis (\$/bu.) ²	4.57	3.74	2.96	2.79	2.22	2.51	2.61	2.71	2.68	2.73
Flour, Kansas City (\$/cwt.)	10.19	9.25	7.21	6.76	5.91	6.09	6.32	6.58	6.49	6.99
Flour, Minneapolis (\$/cwt.)	11.40	10.41	8.34	7.75	6.69	7.02	7.19	7.34	7.20	7.59
Rice, S.W. La. (\$/cwt.) ³	21.50	17.20	14.60	13.25	15.95	16.20	17.75	22.10	24.15	24.00
Wheat:										
Exports (mil. bu.)	1,018	1,173	950	54	97	115	72	61	93	—
Mill grind (mil. bu.)	538	572	593	48	52	49	49	50	47	—
Wheat flour production (mil. cwt.)	239	255	263	21	23	22	22	22	21	—

	Marketing year ¹			1976		1977				1978
	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77	June-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-May	June-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
Wheat:										
Stocks, beginning (mil. bu.)	340	435	665	665	2,188	1,782	1,390	1,112	2,398	1,991
Domestic use:										
Food (mil. bu.)	521	559	553	188	144	138	83	182	143	—
Feed and seed (mil. bu.) ⁴	151	162	195	33	43	75	44	178	39	—
Exports (mil. bu.)	1,018	1,173	950	399	220	179	152	382	225	—

¹ Beginning June 1 for wheat and August 1 for rice. ² Ordinary protein. ³ Long-grain, milled basis. ⁴ Feed use approximated by residual.

Fats and oils:

	Marketing year ¹			1977						1978
	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77	Jan	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Soybeans:										
Wholesale price, No. 1 yellow, Chicago (\$/bu.)	6.34	5.25	7.36	7.08	5.66	5.21	5.05	5.77	5.87	5.65
Crushings (mil. bu.)	701.3	865.1	790.2	72.2	49.1	51.9	75.8	85.2	86.6	—
Processing margin (\$/bu.) ²	.17	.16	.19	.17	.28	.42	.14	.26	.26	—
Exports (mil. bu.)	420.7	555.1	564.1	50.9	18.1	15.0	77.6	87.7	57.0	—
Soybean oil:										
Wholesale price, crude, Decatur (cts./lb.)	30.7	18.3	23.9	20.9	21.1	19.2	18.8	21.0	22.6	20.9
Production (mil. lb.)	7,375.3	9,629.8	8,577.9	786.7	553.6	578.2	821.9	922.3	931.2	—
Domestic disappearance (mil. lb.)	6,518.1	7,906.1	7,454.4	563.9	569.3	679.6	716.5	717.5	654.5	—
Exports (mil. lb.)	1,028.3	975.8	1,547.5	107.1	72.2	66.1	109.0	185.6	175.8	—
Stocks, beginning (mil. lb.)	793.5	560.6	1,250.6	1,488.1	1,032.0	937.3	766.6	752.1	765.5	860.7
Soybean meal:										
Wholesale price, 44% protein, Decatur (\$/ton)	130.86	147.77	199.80	207.00	140.30	143.60	135.00	161.70	160.10	162.25
Production (thou. ton)	16,701.5	20,754.2	18,488.1	1,725.1	1,187.0	1,243.1	1,781.4	2,017.3	2,043.6	—
Domestic disappearance (thou. ton)	12,501.3	15,551.6	14,000.8	1,231.4	1,034.9	992.6	1,500.8	1,506.4	1,515.8	—
Exports (thou. ton)	4,298.8	5,144.8	4,559.2	457.4	276.1	292.6	229.2	533.9	520.6	—
Stocks, beginning (thou. ton)	507.3	358.3	354.9	353.9	399.0	270.4	228.3	270.0	239.8	247.0
Margarine, wholesale price, Chicago (cts./lb.)	44.3	37.9	31.4	33.8	40.3	38.5	37.4	36.9	36.1	34.5

¹ Beginning September 1 for soybeans; October 1 for soy meal and oil; calendar year 1974, 1975, and 1976 for margarine. ² Spot basis, Illinois shipping points

Vegetables:

	Annual			1977						1978
	1975	1976	1977	Jan	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Wholesale Prices:										
Potatoes, white, f.o.b. East (\$/cwt.)	5.65	5.90	5.52	6.07	4.07	3.39	4.46	4.21	4.05	4.02
Iceberg lettuce (\$/ctn.) ¹	2.70	3.57	3.23	2.58	3.06	3.68	3.96	5.41	2.78	5.68
Tomatoes (\$/ctn.) ²	5.81	6.44	6.61	6.15	5.64	5.29	5.84	11.62	7.48	7.27
Wholesale price index, 10 canned veg. (1967=100)	168	160	170	170	169	169	169	168	166	167
Grower Price index, fresh commercial veg. (1967=100)	173	173	198	235	162	168	183	210	163	205

¹ Std. carton 24's, f.o.b. shipping point. ² 2 layers, 5 x 6-6 x 6, f.o.b. Fla.-Cal.

Fruit:

	Annual			1977						1978
	1975	1976	1977	Jan	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Wholesale Price indexes										
Fresh fruit (1967=100)	157.8	160.4	177.5	172.1	184.0	192.1	183.6	176.5	160.0	177.6
Dried fruit (1967=100)	213.4	234.9	338.4	356.7	353.3	356.9	283.0	286.3	286.3	285.8
Canned fruit and juice (1967=100)	173.8	174.4	190.4	186.9	191.0	192.8	194.5	198.8	201.0	233.4
Frozen fruit and juice (1967=100)	156.5	156.2	196.5	144.2	205.7	212.6	212.6	225.9	228.6	228.6
F.o.b. shipping point prices:										
Apples, Yakima Valley (\$/ctn.) ¹	7.36	7.46	9.11	8.51	n.a.	9.15	9.28	9.27	9.50	9.50
Pears, Yakima Valley (\$/box) ²	6.63	7.35	6.94	6.18	n.a.	n.a.	7.49	7.87	8.08	8.69
Oranges, U.S. avg. (\$/box)	6.76	6.72	7.44	6.77	9.04	9.10	11.66	9.91	9.53	9.69
Grapefruit, U.S. avg. (\$/box)	6.18	5.76	6.34	5.50	7.33	6.80	7.87	6.23	6.26	5.91
Stocks, beginning:										
Fresh apples (mil. lb.)	14,163.8	12,180.3	14,343.3	2,249.0	57.3	14.2	1,035.3	3,142.2	2,710.9	2,160.7
Fresh pears (mil. lb.)	2,006.3	1,546.5	1,739.5	211.6	48.2	159.9	398.9	239.4	205.5	157.6
Frozen fruit (mil. lb.)	6,455.9	5,603.6	6,281.2	538.9	585.5	621.6	632.5	677.8	636.3	597.3
Frozen fruit juices (mil. lb.)	14,169.7	14,878.1	11,751.9	844.1	1,092.8	895.8	780.4	679.1	553.7	612.9

¹ Red Delicious, regular storage, Washington extra fancy, carton tray pack. 80-125's. ² D'Anjou pears, regular storage, Washington wrapped, U.S. No. 1, 90-135's. n.a. not available.

Sugar:

	Annual			1977						1978
	1975	1976	1977	Jan	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Wholesale Price, N.Y. (\$/cwt.) ¹	22.47	13.31	³ 10.99	10.95	11.21	10.41	10.23	—	—	—
U.S. deliveries (thou. short tons) ^{1 2}	9,974	10,856	⁴ 11,208	828	1,127	1,001	913	958	⁴ 830	⁴ 775

¹ Raw value. ² Excludes Hawaii. ³ Ten month average. ⁴ Preliminary.

Coffee:

	Annual			1977p						1978
	1975	1976	1977p	Jan	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Composite green price, N.Y. (cts./lb.)	71.76	142.48	256.39	227.89	240.17	236.02	221.70	228.51	201.15	200.11
Imports, green bean equivalent (mil. lb.) ¹	2,767	2,717	1,974	229	104	100	78	125	173	252

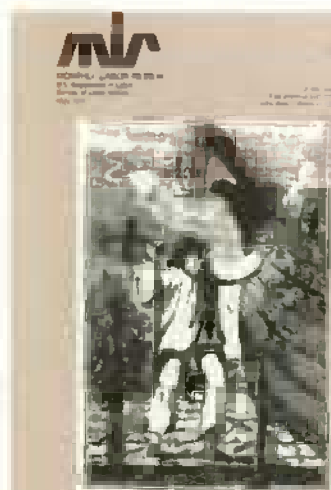
	Annual			1976		1977p				1978
	1975	1976	1977p	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
Roastings (mil. lb.) ²	2,454	2,519	1,892	510	611	629	428	313	522	n.a.

¹ Green and processed coffee. ² Instant soluble and roasted coffee. p Preliminary. n.a. not available.

Tobacco:

	Annual			1977						1978
	1975	1976	1977	Jan	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Prices at auctions:										
Flue-cured (cts./lb.) ¹	99.8	110.4	117.9	—	115.6	131.7	115.2	100.2	—	—
Burley (cts./lb.) ¹	105.6	114.2	² 120.0	113.5	—	—	—	121.4	118.3	121.3
Domestic consumption ³										
Cigarettes (bil.)	588.3	⁴ 617.9	⁵ 595.0	49.0	56.2	49.1	50.8	51.4	—	—
Large cigars (mil.)	5,692	⁴ 5,268	⁵ 4,910	306.7	405.1	413.6	461.2	406.9	—	—

¹ Crop year July-June for flue-cured, October-September for burley. ² Through February 16, 1978. ³ Taxable removals. ⁴ Subject to revision. ⁵ Estimated.



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General Economic Data

Gross national product and related data

	Annual			1976				1977			
	1975	1976	1977	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
\$ Bil. (Quarterly data seasonally adjusted at annual rates)											
Gross national product ¹	1,528.8	1,706.5	1,890.1	1,651.2	1,691.9	1,727.3	1,755.4	1,810.8	1,869.9	1,915.9	1,963.7
Personal consumption expenditures	980.4	1,094.0	1,211.4	1,056.0	1,078.5	1,102.2	1,139.0	1,172.4	1,194.0	1,218.9	1,260.2
Durable goods	132.9	158.9	179.9	153.3	156.7	159.3	166.3	177.0	178.6	177.6	188.3
Nondurable goods	409.3	442.7	480.7	430.4	437.1	444.7	458.8	466.6	474.4	481.8	500.0
Clothing and shoes	70.2	76.3	83.0	74.2	74.3	76.9	79.9	79.3	80.4	83.3	89.0
Food and beverages	209.5	225.5	246.3	219.3	223.9	227.0	232.0	237.9	244.8	248.3	254.3
Services	438.2	492.3	550.8	472.4	484.6	498.2	513.9	528.8	541.1	559.5	573.9
Gross private domestic investment	189.1	243.3	293.9	231.3	244.4	254.3	243.4	271.8	294.9	303.6	305.2
Fixed investment	200.6	230.0	276.4	216.8	226.1	232.8	244.3	258.0	273.2	280.0	294.5
Nonresidential	149.1	161.9	185.5	155.4	159.8	164.9	167.6	177.0	182.4	187.5	194.9
Residential	51.5	68.0	91.0	61.4	66.3	67.8	76.7	81.0	90.8	92.5	99.6
Change in business inventories	-11.5	13.3	17.4	14.5	18.3	21.5	-9	13.8	21.7	23.6	10.7
Net exports of goods and services	20.4	7.8	10.1	10.2	10.2	7.9	3.0	-8.2	-9.7	-7.5	-15.1
Exports	147.3	162.9	175.5	153.9	160.6	168.4	168.5	170.4	178.1	179.9	173.6
Imports	126.9	155.1	185.6	143.7	150.4	160.6	165.6	178.6	187.7	187.4	188.7
Government purchases of goods and services	338.9	361.4	394.9	353.6	358.9	363.0	370.0	374.9	390.6	400.9	413.4
Federal	123.3	130.1	145.5	127.6	128.5	130.2	134.2	136.3	143.6	148.1	153.8
State and local	215.6	231.2	249.5	225.9	230.4	232.7	235.8	238.5	247.0	252.9	259.6
1972 \$ Bil. (Quarterly data seasonally adjusted at annual rates)											
Gross national product	1,202.1	1,274.7	1,337.5	1,256.0	1,271.5	1,283.7	1,287.4	1,311.0	1,330.7	1,347.4	1,360.7
Personal consumption expenditures	775.1	821.3	861.2	807.2	815.5	822.7	839.8	850.4	854.1	860.4	879.9
Durable goods	112.7	127.5	138.3	125.4	126.6	127.1	130.7	136.9	137.9	136.5	141.7
Nondurable goods	307.6	321.6	333.7	316.1	319.3	321.5	329.4	329.7	330.0	332.4	342.7
Clothing and shoes	61.5	64.7	67.7	63.9	63.4	64.7	65.8	65.5	66.0	67.5	71.9
Food and beverages	151.9	159.7	167.6	156.1	158.6	160.1	163.9	165.4	166.4	167.6	170.9
Services	354.8	372.2	389.2	365.6	369.6	374.0	379.7	383.8	386.3	391.4	395.4
Gross private domestic investment	141.6	173.0	195.3	168.1	175.2	179.4	169.2	186.7	197.2	200.8	196.4
Fixed investment	151.5	164.5	183.9	158.4	163.1	165.6	171.0	177.0	184.0	185.1	189.6
Nonresidential	112.7	116.8	127.0	113.7	115.9	118.5	119.0	124.3	126.4	127.6	129.8
Residential	38.8	47.7	56.9	44.8	47.1	47.1	52.0	52.7	57.6	57.5	59.8
Change in business inventories	-9.9	8.5	11.4	9.7	12.1	13.8	-1.8	9.7	13.2	15.7	6.8
Net exports of goods and services	22.5	16.0	10.0	16.8	16.4	17.0	13.8	10.6	9.4	12.2	7.7
Exports	89.9	95.8	97.9	93.1	95.2	97.9	96.9	96.9	98.5	99.8	96.4
Imports	67.4	79.8	87.9	76.3	78.9	80.9	83.1	86.3	89.1	87.6	88.7
Government purchases of goods and services	263.0	264.4	271.0	263.9	264.4	264.6	264.6	263.3	270.0	274.0	276.7
Federal	96.7	96.5	101.4	96.4	96.1	96.7	97.1	97.0	101.1	103.3	104.2
State and local	166.3	167.9	169.6	167.5	168.4	168.0	167.5	166.4	168.9	170.7	172.5
New plant and equipment expenditures (\$ bil.)	112.78	120.49	137.02	114.72	118.12	122.55	125.22	130.16	134.24	140.38	142.38
Implicit price deflator for GNP (1972=100)	127.18	133.88	141.32	131.47	133.06	134.56	136.35	138.13	140.52	142.19	144.32
Disposable income (\$ bil.)	1,084.4	1,185.8	1,309.2	1,153.3	1,174.1	1,193.3	1,222.6	1,252.4	1,292.5	1,323.8	1,368.2
Disposable income (1972 \$ bil.)	857.3	890.3	930.7	881.5	887.8	890.7	901.5	908.4	924.6	934.4	955.2
Per capita disposable income (\$)	5,077	5,511	6,037	5,374	5,462	5,540	5,665	5,793	5,967	6,098	6,289
Per capita disposable income (1972 \$)	4,014	4,137	4,292	4,107	4,130	4,135	4,177	4,202	4,268	4,305	4,391
U.S. population, tot. incl. military abroad (mil.)	213.6	215.1	216.8	214.6	214.9	215.4	215.8	216.2	216.6	217.1	217.5
Civilian population (mil.)	211.4	213.0	214.7	212.5	212.8	213.2	213.7	214.1	214.5	214.9	215.3

See footnotes at end of next table.

Selected monthly indicators

	Annual			1977						1978
	1975	1976	1977p	Jan	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Monthly data seasonally adjusted except as noted										
Industrial production, total ² (1967=100)	117.8	129.8	137.0	132.3	138.1	138.5	138.9	139.3	139.6p	138.6p
Manufacturing (1967=100)	116.3	129.5	137.1	131.6	138.6	139.0	139.4	139.9	140.5p	139.0p
Durable (1967=100)	109.3	121.7	129.5	123.4	131.3	131.7	132.4	132.6	133.6p	131.0p
Nondurable (1967=100)	126.4	140.9	148.1	143.4	149.4	149.5	149.6	150.6	150.6p	150.3p
Leading economic indicators ^{1,3} (1967=100)	114.1	124.7	131.1	126.3	132.3	133.1	134.2	134.3	135.3p	132.8p
Employment ⁴ (Mil. persons)	84.8	87.5	90.5	88.6	90.8	91.1	91.2	92.2	92.6	92.9
Unemployment rate ⁴ (%)	8.5	7.7	7.0	7.3	7.0	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.4	6.3
Personal income ¹ (\$bil. annual rate)	1,253.4	1,382.7	1,536.7	1,454.3	1,549.0	1,561.3	1,584.0	1,602.3	1,622.1	1,626.4p
Hourly earnings in manufacturing ^{4,5} (\$)	4.81	5.19	5.63	5.46	5.65	5.74	5.78	5.81	5.88p	5.92p
Money stock (daily average) ² (\$bil.)	*294.8	*312.4	*335.4	313.8	328.4	330.4	333.7	333.3	335.4	338.0
Time and savings deposits (daily average) ² (\$bil.)	*451.7	*491.1	*545.8	495.6	522.5	525.8	532.2	540.3	545.8p	—
Three-month Treasury bill rate ² (%)	5.838	4.989	5.265	4.597	5.500	5.770	6.188	6.160	6.063	6.430
Aaa corporate bond yield (Moody's) ^{6,7} (%)	8.83	8.43	8.02	7.96	7.98	7.92	8.04	8.08	8.18	8.40p
Interest rate on new home mortgages ⁸ (%)	9.01	8.99	9.01	9.05	9.02	9.04	9.07	9.07	9.09	9.15p
Housing starts, private (including farm) (thou.)	1,160.4	1,537.5	1,986.4	1,393	2,038	2,012	2,139	2,096	2,194p	1,549p
Auto sales at retail, total ¹ (mil.)	8.6	10.1	—	10.5	11.5	10.5	11.0	12.4	12.6p	11.8p
Business sales, total ¹ (\$bil.)	180.2	200.1	222.9p	210.0	223.6	224.2	227.5	230.4	235.6p	—
Business inventories, total ¹ (\$bil.)	281.8	306.3	332.7p	309.1	326.8	329.5	330.5	332.7	332.7p	—
Sales of all retail stores (\$bil.) ⁹	48.4	53.5	58.9	56.7	59.0	59.0	60.7	61.6	62.0p	60.7p
Durable goods stores (\$bil.)	14.9	17.5	19.8	19.0	20.0	19.8	20.9	20.7	20.9p	19.6p
Nondurable goods stores (\$bil.)	33.5	36.0	39.1	37.6	39.0	39.2	39.9	40.9	41.1p	40.5p
Food stores (\$bil.)	11.5	12.2	13.0	11.9	13.0	13.1	13.2	13.6	13.5p	13.5p
Eating and drinking places (\$bil.)	4.3	4.8	5.3	4.5	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.5p	5.5p
Apparel and accessory stores (\$bil.)	2.6	2.8	2.8	2.4	2.8	2.7	2.9	3.0	2.9p	2.7p

¹Department of Commerce. ²Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. ³Composite index of 12 leading indicators. ⁴Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. ⁵Not seasonally adjusted. ⁶December of the year listed. ⁷Moody's Investors Service. ⁸Federal Home Loan Bank Board. ⁹Adjusted for seasonal variations, holidays, and trading day differences. p. Preliminary.

U.S. Agricultural Trade

Prices of principal U.S. agricultural trade products

	Annual			1977						1978
	1975	1976	1977	Jan	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Export commodities:										
Wheat, f.o.b. Gulf ports (\$/bu.)	4.16	3.65	2.85	2.97	2.63	2.78	2.90	3.12	3.18	3.25
Corn, f.o.b. Gulf ports (\$/bu.)	3.10	2.91	2.49	2.86	2.03	2.07	2.17	2.47	2.55	2.57
Grain sorghum, f.o.b. Gulf ports (\$/bu.)	2.95	2.73	2.30	2.58	1.95	2.01	2.11	2.36	2.36	2.35
Soybeans, f.o.b. Gulf ports (\$/bu.)	5.72	6.07	7.38	7.36	6.30	5.36	5.41	6.14	6.31	6.24
Soybean oil, Decatur (cts./lb.)	25.39	18.05	23.69	20.86	21.13	19.17	18.76	20.99	22.64	n.a.
Soybean meal, Decatur (\$/ton)	124.05	155.82	192.17	207.00	140.30	143.60	135.00	161.70	160.10	n.a.
Cotton, 10 market avg. spot (cts./lb.)	44.70	67.70	60.48	66.95	52.54	49.30	49.06	47.98	48.42	51.05
Tobacco, avg. price of auction (cts./lb.)	103.50	105.73	114.24	113.60	112.36	123.51	113.04	117.50	117.90	121.30
Rice, f.o.b. mill, Houston (\$/cwt.)	21.28	16.17	16.96	13.85	16.05	16.50	18.30	22.60	24.15	25.00
Inedible tallow, Chicago (cts./lb.)	12.04	13.27	13.61	13.40	11.63	11.41	12.45	12.97	13.15	n.a.
Import commodities:										
Coffee, N.Y. spot (cts./lb.) .....	.77	1.42	2.41	2.22	2.02	1.97	1.85	1.90	2.05	2.09
Sugar, N.Y. spot (cts./lb.)	22.47	13.31	10.99	10.95	11.21	10.41	10.24	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Cow meat, f.o.b. port of entry (cts./lb.)	60.20	71.69	68.42	71.55	63.01	64.18	66.37	67.43	71.89	77.81
Rubber, N.Y. spot (cts./lb.)	30.60	39.59	41.59	40.82	40.70	44.40	44.51	43.97	42.58	43.51
Cocoa beans, N.Y. (\$/lb.) .....	.56	.94	1.72	1.76	1.80	1.78	1.60	1.60	1.48	1.31
Bananas, f.o.b. port of entry (\$/40-lb. box)	4.41	4.67	4.17	4.38	4.41	4.58	4.68	n.a.	n.a.	4.65
Canned Danish hams, ex-warehouse N.Y. (\$/lb.) ..	1.75	1.75	1.85	1.72	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.97	1.97	2.07
Quantity Indices										
Export (1967=100)	156	174	177	167	150	173	168	197	214	n.a.
Import (1967=100)	123	138	138	141	128	139	113	104	172	n.a.
Unit Value Indices										
Export (1967=100)	221	207	210	216	194	189	191	199	204	n.a.
Import (1967=100)	203	217	235	262	228	213	219	227	217	n.a.

n.a. not available.

U.S. agricultural exports

	October-December				December			
	1976	1977p	1976	1977p	1976	1977p	1976	1977p
	Thou. units		\$ Thou.		Thou. units		\$ Thou.	
Animals, live, excl. poultry	—	—	29,160	33,981	—	—	7,179	13,330
Meat and preps., excl. poultry (lb.)	252,543	229,001	157,249	159,276	82,613	86,740	50,065	60,456
Dairy products, excl. eggs	—	—	31,284	35,735	—	—	11,492	15,234
Poultry and poultry products	—	—	75,429	84,772	—	—	26,701	31,926
Grains and preparations	—	—	2,659,993	2,065,368	—	—	763,723	843,485
Wheat and wheat flour (bu.)	217,080	221,765	789,428	668,835	58,016	90,855	207,547	283,258
Rice, milled (lb.)	1,289,377	1,181,777	169,433	178,542	574,872	416,420	72,895	65,492
Feed grains (metric ton)	14,781	12,355	1,631,636	1,148,099	4,242	4,765	458,260	468,718
Other	—	—	69,496	69,892	—	—	25,021	26,017
Fruits, nuts, and preparations	—	—	282,760	330,466	—	—	80,534	103,355
Vegetables and preparations	—	—	213,349	147,432	—	—	73,120	55,721
Sugar and preps., incl. honey (lb.)	136,109	128,096	17,729	14,646	40,562	72,010	5,210	6,094
Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, etc. (lb.)	21,254	27,499	25,460	34,347	6,621	9,095	8,180	11,969
Feeds and fodders	—	—	377,389	351,588	—	—	141,384	128,722
Protein meal (short ton)	1,313	1,346	226,186	229,073	490	538	87,187	89,640
Beverages, excl. distilled alcoholic (gal.)	2,906	2,716	5,739	5,203	1,068	1,316	1,936	2,404
Tobacco, unmanufactured (lb.)	183,494	170,186	305,610	329,916	76,379	102,577	133,244	203,020
Hides, skins, and furskins	—	—	171,280	159,410	—	—	65,225	66,422
Oilseeds	—	—	1,359,190	1,514,990	—	—	420,087	418,161
Soybeans (bu.)	184,169	222,377	1,236,770	1,323,415	56,705	57,033	386,261	355,338
Wool, unmanufactured (lb. grease basis)	2,231	2,563	7,475	8,314	739	1,403	2,458	4,333
Cotton, unmanufactured (running bale)	914	1,013	307,333	307,194	394	510	131,112	157,187
Fats, oils, and greases (lb.)	760,673	773,573	130,864	143,217	297,374	260,390	50,829	48,354
Vegetable oils and waxes (lb.)	554,202	806,184	146,414	214,382	204,876	289,571	53,067	79,361
Rubber and allied gums (lb.)	11,244	9,057	5,827	5,597	2,959	3,710	1,527	2,253
Other	—	—	143,415	164,716	—	—	54,372	72,108
Total	—	—	6,452,949	6,110,550	—	—	2,081,445	2,323,895

p Preliminary.

U.S. agricultural exports by regions

Region ¹	October-December		December		Change from year-earlier	
	1976	1977p	1976	1977p	Oct-Dec 1977p	December 1977p
	\$ Mil.				Pct.	
Western Europe	2,661	2,268	840	838	-15	—
Enlarged European Community	2,245	1,772	695	613	-21	-12
Other Western Europe	416	496	145	224	+19	+55
Eastern Europe and USSR	465	406	160	176	-13	+10
USSR	266	240	104	107	-10	+3
Eastern Europe	199	166	56	69	-17	+23
Asia	1,978	2,005	672	829	+1	+23
West Asia	248	232	81	88	-5	+9
South Asia	207	75	31	25	-64	-19
Southeast Asia, ex. Japan and PRC	527	557	203	244	+6	+20
Japan	995	1,078	357	447	+8	+25
Peoples Republic of China	0	63	0	25	—	—
Latin America	477	566	155	191	+19	+23
Canada, excluding transshipments	411	375	135	121	-9	-10
Canadian transshipments	124	130	8	25	+5	+213
Africa	300	318	102	128	+6	+26
North Africa	172	192	52	76	+12	+46
Other Africa	128	125	49	52	-2	+6
Oceania	37	44	11	17	+19	+55
Total ²	6,453	6,111	2,081	2,324	+6	+12

¹ Not adjusted for transshipments. ² Totals may not add due to rounding. p Preliminary.

U.S. agricultural imports

	October-December				December			
	1976	1977p	1976	1977p	1976	1977p	1976	1977p
	Thou. units		\$ Thou.		Thou. units		\$ Thou.	
Animals live, excl. poultry	—	—	86,519	101,198	—	—	41,855	42,795
Meat and preps., excl. poultry (lb.)	399,290	415,516	304,579	299,831	94,195	211,602	78,852	154,669
Beef and veal (lb.)	311,413	341,212	185,288	198,649	65,594	172,218	39,702	100,242
Pork (lb.)	76,239	63,974	109,077	91,796	25,551	33,953	36,418	49,657
Dairy products, excl. eggs	—	—	94,719	90,181	—	—	43,855	47,081
Poultry and poultry products	—	—	14,912	13,520	—	—	4,937	6,347
Grains and preparations	—	—	38,737	36,823	—	—	13,257	14,580
Wheat and flour (bu.)	14	1	173	12	9	(¹)	119	3
Rice (lb.)	860	1,832	138	278	676	676	79	114
Feed grains (metric ton)	28	51	4,066	5,156	14	23	2,172	2,307
Other	—	—	34,360	31,377	—	—	10,887	12,156
Fruits, nuts, and preparations	—	—	194,985	217,125	—	—	65,679	71,374
Bananas (lb.)	1,166,177	1,204,605	77,904	78,612	379,446	424,634	25,471	24,639
Vegetables and preparations	—	—	96,448	119,709	—	—	39,424	53,474
Sugar and preps., incl. honey	—	—	280,764	381,713	—	—	98,159	196,647
Sugar, cane or beet (short ton)	1,195	1,965	232,749	341,851	428	1,031	85,266	184,920
Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, etc. (lb.)	884,294	585,900	1,071,061	1,018,800	356,924	248,243	449,686	430,204
Cocoa beans (lb.)	597,860	390,778	803,457	690,239	245,809	178,205	343,621	316,055
Cocoa beans (lb.)	81,222	41,021	69,633	80,519	36,946	12,362	31,652	23,404
Feeds and fodders	—	—	18,588	16,116	—	—	6,090	6,076
Protein meal (short ton)	6	2	738	316	1	1	126	161
Beverages, excl. distilled alcoholic (gal.)	35,413	31,622	129,974	121,776	12,333	12,993	46,920	47,885
Tobacco, unmanufactured (lb.)	69,772	72,987	73,183	80,765	27,473	24,594	30,838	26,808
Hides, skins, and furskins	—	—	32,709	39,563	—	—	15,594	22,348
Oilseeds	—	—	23,604	13,808	—	—	7,642	4,965
Soybeans (lb.)	3	10	4	7	3	1	3	1
Wool, (lb. grease basis)	15,912	9,510	18,141	11,881	5,672	4,160	6,785	5,657
Cotton, unmanufactured (running bale)	38	12	9,697	1,551	4	4	463	252
Fats, oils, and greases (lb.)	5,276	3,941	967	1,023	1,684	1,075	336	314
Vegetable oils and waxes (lb.)	611,077	365,652	123,197	95,323	220,912	131,158	47,410	32,028
Rubber and allied gums (lb.)	384,390	432,473	136,621	160,551	154,689	184,348	54,902	69,445
Other	—	—	129,218	132,982	—	—	42,887	51,709
Total	—	—	2,878,623	2,954,239	—	—	1,095,571	1,284,658

¹ Less than 500,000. p Preliminary.

Trade balance

	October-December		December	
	1976	1977p	1976	1977p
\$ Mil.				
Agricultural exports ¹	6,453	6,111	2,081	2,324
Nonagricultural exports ²	23,598	23,609	8,511	8,804
Total exports ²	30,051	29,720	10,592	11,128
Agricultural imports ³	2,879	2,954	1,096	1,285
Nonagricultural imports ⁴	29,919	34,223	10,455	12,115
Total imports ⁴	32,798	37,177	11,551	13,400
Agricultural trade balance	3,574	3,157	985	1,039
Nonagricultural trade balance	-6,321	-10,614	-1,944	-3,311
Total trade balance	-2,747	-7,457	-959	-2,272

¹ Domestic exports (F.A.S. value). ² Domestic and foreign exports excluding Department of Defense shipments. (F.A.S. value). ³ Imports for consumption (customs value). ⁴ General imports. (customs value). p Preliminary.

World Agricultural Production

World supply and utilization of major crops

	1971/72	1972/73	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77 ¹	1977/78 ²
	Mil. units						
Wheat:							
Area (hectare)	212.8	210.8	216.5	220.4	225.6	232.4	226.4
Production (metric ton)	348.2	343.3	371.6	356.0	348.9	413.4	381.0
Exports (metric ton)	55.6	70.8	72.6	68.0	73.1	70.0	80.2
Consumption (metric ton) ³	341.4	361.2	363.5	362.4	351.8	375.7	394.7
Ending stocks (metric ton) ⁴	78.8	61.0	69.1	62.9	60.0	97.7	83.9
Coarse grains:							
Area (hectare)	340.9	338.0	351.3	349.4	355.0	357.2	357.1
Production (metric ton)	621.9	602.7	660.9	621.0	635.2	693.9	684.3
Exports (metric ton)	55.5	69.0	80.9	69.5	88.5	88.5	86.4
Consumption (metric ton) ³	608.6	620.5	665.3	625.9	635.5	673.4	678.0
Ending stocks (metric ton) ⁴	78.4	60.6	56.2	54.9	54.6	75.1	81.4
Rice, rough:							
Area (hectare)	132.0	131.5	135.8	138.1	143.1	141.6	143.4
Production (metric ton)	317.7	308.2	330.9	336.8	360.6	348.7	362.7
Exports (metric ton)	12.0	12.0	11.4	11.0	11.9	14.2	14.1
Consumption (metric ton) ³	321.0	314.9	328.4	336.9	352.7	352.9	356.0
Ending stocks (metric ton) ⁴	23.7	17.0	19.5	18.2	25.9	21.6	28.2
Total grains:							
Area (hectare)	685.7	680.3	703.6	707.9	723.7	731.2	726.9
Production (metric ton)	1,287.8	1,254.2	1,363.4	1,313.8	1,344.8	1,456.0	1,428.0
Exports (metric ton)	123.1	151.8	164.9	148.5	173.5	172.7	180.7
Consumption (metric ton) ³	1,271.0	1,296.6	1,357.2	1,325.2	1,340.0	1,402.0	1,428.7
Ending stocks (metric ton) ⁴	180.9	138.6	144.8	136.0	140.5	194.4	193.5
Oilseeds and meals:^{5 6}							
Production (metric ton)	55.9	57.6	68.3	64.3	72.7	66.6	79.3
Trade (metric ton)	25.6	25.6	27.3 ⁷	27.6	33.6	33.7	35.4
Fats and oils:⁶							
Production (metric ton)	43.7	42.9	47.4	46.6	49.8	48.3	53.4
Trade (metric ton)	13.3	13.3	13.6	13.7	15.7	16.6	17.5
Cotton:							
Area (hectare)	33.2	33.6	32.8	33.4	30.0	31.3	32.9
Production (bale)	59.8	63.0	63.2	64.3	54.1	58.0	64.8
Exports (bale)	18.6	21.0	19.6	17.3	19.0	18.1	18.6
Consumption (bale)	58.3	60.0	62.0	58.5	62.1	61.4	61.3
Ending stocks (bale)	21.1	23.7	25.1	30.1	22.2	19.4	23.4

¹ Estimate. ² Forecast. ³ Where stock data not available (excluding USSR), consumption includes stock changes. ⁴ Stocks data are based on differing marketing years and do not represent levels at a given date. Data not available for all countries; includes estimated change in USSR grain stocks but not absolute level. ⁵ Soybean meal equivalent. ⁶ Calendar year data. 1972 data corresponds with 1971/72, 1973 data with 1972/73, etc..

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